NEW YORK POST

Page Six

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Moshe Yezhak Grunhaus, 50, holds his chest after being stabbed by a man shouting "Allahu Akbar" on Thursday. Jewish leaders blamed Mayor Mamdani for the hate crime, saying he's fanned "the flames of hatred and division" with his constant attacks on Israel.

PAGES 4-5

ZO MUCH HATE

Jewish leaders denounce Mamdani 'fanning hatred' after UWS stabbings

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ONE MAN'S TRASH...

Stephen Yang

WORKING THE STREETS: Justin Gignac has an eye for "statement" street trash that he picks up (here in Times Square) and sells in clear plastic cubes (right) as avant-garde art for up to $100.

... is this picky avant-*garbage* artist's treasure

JUST&T MARRIED — Justin Gignac collected trash outside Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's wedding at Madison Square Garden that may not have belonged to the superstar couple, but spoke to their influence — like a single, broken airpod left on the street.

BODEGA EDITION — Gignac teamed with the brand ONLY NY for the limited edition drop that featured trash sourced from bodegas across the five boroughs. That included soda cans, bottle caps and the iconic tiny salt and pepper packets.

2024 NY LIBERTY WNBA CHAMPIONSHIP PARADE — Capturing the New York Liberty's historic ticker tape parade in the form of confetti, streams, torn-up wristbands and the coffee cups the partiers were sipping on.

2025 NATHAN'S FAMOUS HOT DOG EATING CONTEST — Included Nathan's branded mustard packets, beer cans, and balloons from the 2025 Coney Island contest, which marked champ Joey Chestnut's return after his famous sponsorship dispute.

NYC PRIDE MARCH 2025 — Featured bubble containers, rainbow flags, hoop earrings and even empty nutcracker drink containers that were ditched in the streets after the annual parade in June.

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

He's picking up lots of extra cash on the side.

Justin Gignac has spent more than two decades collecting trash off the streets of the Big Apple, packaging it in small, clear cubes and selling them for up to $100 a pop.

New York City Garbage is a long-term art project that Gignac says chronicles and captures "an actual piece of the city."

"In New York, we're famous for our garbage. It's like a living character of the city. And I think being a bit notorious for being a filthy city really helps," the artist, 46, told The Post.

"The brand of New York City here is a really big one. Instead of shying away from maybe what would be looked down upon — that we have so much trash everywhere — we embrace that. It's just a part of being in New York."

Gignac, of Forest Hills, Queens, recently enjoyed a moment of virality for plucking rubbish from outside Taylor Swift's Madison Square Garden wedding — including a discarded ovulation test kit.

But the sold-out "Not Invited Edition (Taylor & Travis' Wedding)" trash drop is just the latest in the dozens Gignac has released since he first started collecting garbage back in 2001.

The gig started out as a gag — one designed to spite an old marketing co-worker who claimed package design wasn't important, a declaration Gignac called "crazy."

The budding trash man snagged a Heineken can, slices of caution tape and bits of newspaper off the streets of Times Square, shoved it into a clear cube and slapped the date on it — and successfully sold it to a stranger.

The cubes have evolved over the years to focus on composition — like one cube in which a Sonny Angel figurine gingerly dangled on the rim of a Greek coffee cup.

Moments in time

Gignac has also pivoted on "drops" throughout the years that capture moments in time, like Swift's wedding or the 2026 World Cup tournament or in 2011 when same-sex marriage was legalized in the Big Apple.

"I went down to the city clerk's office and it was a huge celebration. I found beads and confetti and ring boxes. That felt very of that moment in time. What we throw away is the direct reflection of who we are and what's happening," Gignac reflected.

He's turning the trash into gold — Gignac has raked in at least $100,000 over the past two decades after selling more than 1,700 cubes at various prices.

But the mission has largely remained the same — the artist, armed with a garbage picker and gloves, scours neighborhoods across the five boroughs for interesting trash until he fills a 40-pound bag.

"I am always looking for things that are either quintessentially New York, like the Greek coffee cup, parking tickets, MetroCards. Those things are just very iconic New York pieces of trash," he explains.

"I love finding things that come from people and have a story behind them, so I love finding photographs, I love finding birthday cards and love notes. I found one [love note] that was ripped in half!"

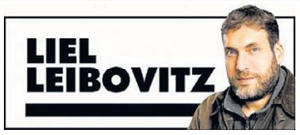
The only things Gignac won't pick up are wet trash or anything that might be harboring rats, he admits.

His dream is to one day have a gallery show at the Museum of Modern Art in which the garbage will be laid out on a map of the five boroughs similar to the iconic Panorama at the Queens Museum.

"Every major neighborhood and landmark will be represented with garbage so people can walk through and compare and contrast and just see, even from neighborhood to neighborhood, how different the garbage is," said Gignac.

"Garbage is collectible, and I like capturing these moments in time that were a part of history."

HIZZ 'HATE' FUEL



Attacks like this only the beginning

THURSDAY'S attack on a Jewish man on the Upper West Side hit particularly close to home.

The stabbing happened a few blocks from my house, and the victim wore a big, black yarmulke, just like me.

But even more troubling than the thought that it could easily have been me — or my son — on the other end of that blade was the following grim realization: Attacks like this one are only the beginning, never the end.

If you think I'm being needlessly alarmist, just look at France.

In 2017, a Jewish woman named Sarah Halimi was tortured and killed in her apartment; the man who killed her later shouted "Allahu Akbar" while throwing her body off her third-floor balcony.

A year later, Mireille Knoll, an 85-year-old Holocaust survivor, was stabbed 11 times by a Muslim man who later set her apartment on fire.

A 12-year-old Jewish girl was raped in 2024 by three of her schoolmates who laughed as they hurled antisemitic slurs at her; a year later, a rabbi was assaulted in Orleans.

That's a very partial list.

Last year, the French government recorded 1,320 instances of antisemitic violence, a historically high rate.

Violent Jihadi ideology

Things aren't much better in England, where a few harassment cases in 2021 — two years before Oct. 7 and the alleged Israeli "genocide" in Gaza — were followed by a violent attack on a rabbi in Chigwell; a terrorist attack on a synagogue in Manchester during Yom Kippur, killing two; and, just this April, the stabbing of two Jews by a Muslim immigrant from Somalia.

When the violence first started, Jewish groups in England and France reacted much like Jewish groups in New York are reacting right now, expressing shock and outrage and demanding protection.

And English and French politicians rushed, just as politicians in New York are rushing right now, to pay lip service and promise that the attacks were aberrations that cannot and will not be tolerated.

And yet the attacks persisted and grew more deadly, precisely because they weren't aberrations.

They were the natural, almost predictable outcome of a violent Jihadi ideology — and despite the politicians' proclamations, they were very much tolerated.

This last part shouldn't be too hard for New Yorkers to understand.

Those of us who have lived here long enough to see New York transformed from a crime-ridden hellscape to a safe and prosperous city, and then decline again, understand the profound wisdom of the broken windows theory: When you ignore a public-safety problem and let it go unchecked, it's only going to get much worse.

Attack on America

New York's politicians have long put up with violence in the name of "Palestine."

Mayor Mamdani even encouraged it this week when he advised his base to take to the streets and protest Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he visits the city in the fall.

Talk like that, and don't be surprised when the Islamists are emboldened to protest as they always do: with a knife, a gun or a bomb.

And don't be surprised, either, when your peaceful and prosperous society is no longer either of these things because your streets are now thick with murderous marauders.

That, really, is the most important thing to understand about Thursday's stabbing: The victim may have been Jewish, but the attack was not against the Jews.

It was an attack on America itself, because a city in which this sort of thing keeps happening — a city where we can no longer walk freely without fearing a religiously motivated attack, a city where elected officials are quick to explain that the stabber shouting "Allahu Akbar" was mentally ill and didn't really mean it, a city where everyone pledges to fight alleged "Islamophobia" but no one does anything to address the much more acute threat of Islamism — a city like that can no longer be considered an American city.

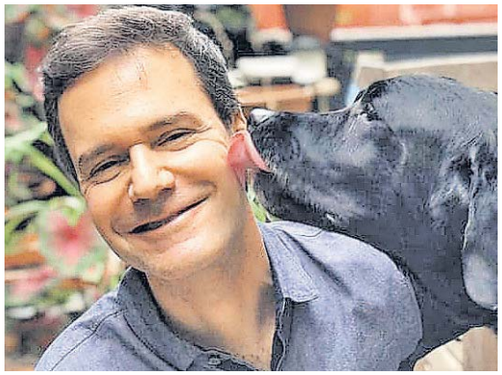
Because we Americans will never tolerate the sort of murderous chaos we see every other week in England or in France.

We'll never put up with stabbings as the new normal.

We'll fight to stay not only safe but also free.

And the first step in this fight is standing firm against those — including, sadly, our own mayor — who cheer on the violence rather than confront it.

Liel Leibovitz is editor at large for Tablet and senior fellow at the Hudson Institute.



By PATRICK REILLY, MATTHEW FISCHETTI, CRAIG McCARTHY and KATE SHEEHY

City Jewish leaders Friday demanded Mayor Mamdani "stop fanning the flames of hatred and division" after a nut stabbed a religious man in a suspected antisemitic hate crime on the Upper West Side — but Hizzoner offered nothing more than a canned, tepid response.

Raul Morales, 51, allegedly yelled "Allahu Akbar!" three times as he attacked the two victims — Moshe Yezhak Grunhaus, a 50-year-old Jewish man, and Chok Sung, a 57-year-old Asian man — in vicious separate attacks blocks from Central Park and minutes apart Thursday afternoon, police and prosecutors said.

"We're horrified and heartbroken by yesterday's attacks. But to be clear, we're no longer surprised," UJA-Federation of New York CEO Eric Goldstein said at a press conference Friday.

Finally condemns

"When the mayor of New York repeatedly uses his platform to relentlessly single out and demonize Israel, the world's only Jewish state, and calls those who support it 'monsters,' he contributes to a climate in which Jewish New Yorkers are increasingly targeted and unsafe," Goldstein claimed.

"Mayor Mamdani, stop fanning the flames of hatred and division. The consequences are not abstract. They are playing out on our streets. But make no mistake, we are not going anywhere."

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, president of Yeshiva University, told The Post, "He's raising the temperature. "It's not that he's just not lowering it; he's raising it," Berman said. "He has absolutely failed.

"After Mamdani's rant this past week against the prime minister of the only Jewish state, do New Yorkers feel less safe or more safe? Do they feel unified or divided?"

While a slew of top city officials swiftly issued statements condemning Thursday's attacks fewer than two hours after they occurred, Mamdani did not address them until after Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch shared details of the case hours later.

Given a chance by The Post on

FANNING FLAMES

Jewish leaders rip Mam after UWS attack

SICK STARE: Raul Morales is arrested after allegedly yelling "Allahu Akbar!" as he stabbed two people Thursday, including Moshe Grunhaus (top left). Jewish leaders blame Mayor Mamdani for spreading antisemitic hate and division across the city.

NY Post; Facebook/Moshe Grunhaus; Gregory P. Mango

Friday to take a strong stance against such attacks, Mamdani continued to give his formulaic takes on such situations.

'Raising temp'

"You know, first and foremost, I want to make clear that this is a city where we have no tolerance for hatred of any kind, the hatred of someone on the basis of their faith, their background, natural identity," he said when asked if he had a response to the outrage from the Jewish leaders.

"This is a city that not only has no tolerance for it, but will also hold anyone who is found to be perpetrating it fully accountable," Mamdani said.

"I am so relieved to hear that both of these victims are in stable condition, and I wish them a full and speedy recovery," he continued.

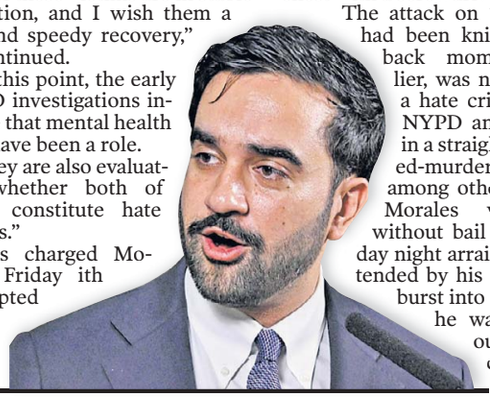
"At this point, the early NYPD investigations indicate that mental health may have been a role.

"They are also evaluating whether both of these constitute hate crimes."

Cops charged Morales Friday ith attempted murder as a hate crime in the attack on Grunhaus, who was stabbed in the chest with a screwdriver.

The attack on Sung, who had been knifed in the back moments earlier, was not deemed a hate crime by the NYPD and resulted in a straight attempted-murder rap, among other charges.

Morales was held without bail at his Friday night arraignment attended by his mom, who burst into tears when he was ushered out of the courtroom.



Jordan Donegan / NYPost

Calm before the stab

The stunned roommate of the nut who allegedly attacked two Upper West Side victims said Friday the man calmly told him he was just going for a walk in the park before the violence — as cops carted off items from their home including a Quran and book on Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara.

The roomie recounted his seemingly blasé encounter with ex-con Raul Morales, 51 — who has now been charged with an antisemitic hate crime in one of the attacks — to NYPD investigators in Spanish at their apartment on Amsterdam Avenue near West 88th Street in Manhattan.

The roommate said Morales — a former drug parolee and an apparent onetime Brooklyn security guard — did not appear angry or agitated, leaving him shocked at what cops said was to come.

Neighbors at the building, which is near Central Park, also said they had no inkling Morales could allegedly pull off such violence.

"Never displayed anything," said a resident who only identified himself as Tony J, 54.

"That's why when I seen him yesterday coming out the building in handcuffs, I was like, 'What the f--k is he locked up for?' " he said of Morales. "It blew my mind."

Morales previously did two years in state prison on drug charges in the early 1990s and remained on probation for much of the decade, sources said.

Jordan Donegan

Bloody grim video

The Jewish man who was stabbed by a screwdriver-wielding madman yelling "Allahu Akbar!" during a rampage on the Upper West Side was seen on video clutching his chest moments after the attack.

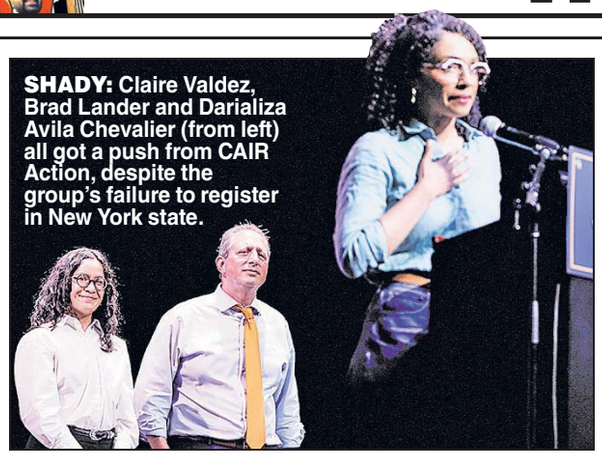
A stunned Moshe Yezhak Grunhaus, 50 — described by a neighbor Friday as a quiet "very, very nice" man — is seen holding a tissue to his chest as he sits sprawled on a street corner waiting for emergency services.

He was wearing a yarmulke when he walked out of a synagogue on the Jewish holiday of Tisha B'Av, at Amsterdam Avenue and West 86th Street, and was attacked in broad daylight.

His alleged assailant, Raul Morales, screamed "Allahu Akbar!" before driving the screwdriver into Grunhaus' chest, according to police and video.

Moments earlier, around 1:30 p.m., Morales allegedly attacked Chok Sung, 57, stabbing him in the back with a knife, at West 84th Street and Central Park West, cops said.

Katherine Donlevy



SHADY: Claire Valdez, Brad Lander and Darializa Avila Chevalier (from left) all got a push from CAIR Action, despite the group's failure to register in New York state.

Muslim charity afoul on funds

The political wing of the country's largest Muslim charity helped propel radical socialist candidates to victory in New York City's Democratic primary last month, but the Council on American-Islamic Relations Action Inc. failed to register with the state's attorney general — a requirement for nonprofits to solicit cash from New Yorkers, The Post has learned.

In fact, CAIR Action, which urged voters to vote for a roster of congressional candidates backed by Mayor Mamdani including Brad Lander, Darializa Avila Chevalier and Claire Valdez, has not registered with any attorney general in any state where it is seeking support, according to a watchdog group.

"Three candidates in New York are on a likely path to Congress on the strength of support published by an organization that had no legal right to raise a dollar there," said Susan George, CEO of the Intelligent Advocacy Network. "CAIR Action is now positioned to fund-raise off these races straight through November unless the attorney general's office acts."

California's attorney general barred CAIR Action, which holds 501(c)4 status with the IRS, from soliciting in March, pending registration. Four months later, CAIR Action still has not filed yet continues to solicit in the state, according to the IAN report compiled using public documents.

Washington, DC, has also fined the group for unlicensed solicitation, with CAIR Action incurring a fine for failure to register to solicit in the district.

In a statement to The Post, CAIR Action said it "complies with all federal and state laws that apply to 501(c)(4) organizations, including state registration and reporting requirements where applicable."

Isabel Vincent

Cops irate at Bibi bashing

Mayor Mamdani is telling New Yorkers to take to the streets to protest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he visits the city — and it has NYPD cops fuming.

New York's Finest just put in duty to keep the five boroughs safe during the FIFA World Cup, the Knicks NBA title, Independence Day and a massive America250 celebration that brought millions into the city — and now will have to keep their guards up as the lefty mayor fans the flames.

"The mayor's activist posturing puts police officers on the street in a terrible position," Police Benevolent Association boss Patrick Hendry said.

"Protests during the UN General Assembly are nothing new, but when the mayor of the city is actively calling for demonstrations, violent agitators will assume they have permission to cause as much havoc as possible."

Larry Celona and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon

By MATTHEW FISCHETTI

Mayor Mamdani is taking flak on social media for celebrating New York's new pied-à-terre tax with a taunting statement to wealthy residents.

"If you have a second home in New York City worth more than $5 million, check your mailbox when you're back in the five boroughs — because you've got mail," the democratic socialist mayor posted on X Thursday.

"Today, we sent notification letters to property owners, letting them know that our new pied-à-terre tax is coming soon," Hizzoner wrote. "The best city in the world deserves the best parks, libraries and schools in the world. That's only possible when we all pay our fair share."

Mamdani's post, which had raked up more than 14 million views by Friday, sparked a wave of backlash, with conservative users lambasting the lefty politician for squeezing taxpayers to cover his freebie-filled agenda.

"This may be the first time I've ever seen a politician gloat over raising taxes," Fox News Digital columnist David Marcus posted on X.

The socialist darling has repeatedly crowed about the policy enacted by Gov. Hochul and Albany Democrats that will tax luxury second homes in the Big Apple — though critics have warned it could cause property values to plummet.

'More incitement'

The Post reported last month that the city Department of Finance was sending out the first surcharge notices to owners of thousands of multimillion-dollar second residences to let them know they'd been deemed eligible for the tax.

"More incitement," Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton posted on X. "Communist @NYCMayor celebrates a confiscatory tax targeted at a select few."

Mamdani released a video in April also gloating about the tax while standing in front of billionaire CEO Ken Griffin's 24,000-square-foot property on Central Park South — sparking outrage as he specifically called out the Citadel founder.

A top executive at Griffin's fund blasted the mayor's comments in a searing, companywide email, signaling he might pull a $6 billion development project in Midtown.

Queens GOP Councilwoman Vickie Paladino pushed the mayor on when the city would stop relying on tax hikes to pay for his pie-in-the-sky policies.

"What will the excuse be when literally nothing improves after all these tax increases?" she railed on X Thursday. "Will they just demand even more, or will they tell us to ignore our own eyes as they insist they've actually fixed everything? Both?"

Stephen Yang

Brooklyn Republican Councilwoman Inna Vernikov said the policy's purpose was "to destroy NYC, Capitalism & American values, of course" in an X post.

While Mamdani campaigned on paying for his freebie-filled agenda by raising taxes on the rich, he has pushed for at least $23 billion in taxes on even middle-class New Yorkers since being sworn in.

Mamdani previously threatened to raise city property taxes by nearly 10 percent unless he got his wish to "tax the rich" to cover an initial $12 billion city budget gap that was revised down to $5.4 billion.

City Hall estimates the pied-à-terre tax would yield $500 million per year for the Big Apple's budget. Estimates from Democratic city Comptroller Mark Levine's office poured cold water on the figure, arguing that the haul would be closer to $340 million to $380 million and could decrease over time.

But Mamdani still isn't stopping with the pied-à-terre tax.

The mayor is pushing ahead for a months-long pressure campaign for even more new state taxes, including on city property owners, The Post exclusively reported this week.

City Hall reps didn't respond to a request for comment Friday.

OUCH: Mayor Mamdani loves his social-media swagger — but a day after an X post boast about his pied-à-terre tax, conservatives went off Friday on the democratic socialist with stinging criticisms.

ZO 'PIED' DEARLY FOR X GLOAT

Sparks a backlash over tax boasting

Hard $lap at the not so wealthy

By POST EDITORIAL BOARD

There Mayor Mamdani goes again, exulting in stomping on those "rich" New Yorkers who don't "pay their fair share."

Crowing that the city has mailed out its first notification about the new pied-à-terre tax, he gloated on X: "If you have a second home in New York City worth more than $5 million, check your mailbox when you're back in the five boroughs — because you've got mail."

Message to his fans: He's making "the rich" pay their "fair share!"

Message to his targets: Pay up, you fat cats!

Except they're not all fat cats: The mayor emphasizes the $5 million eligibility floor, making it sound like this tax is only aimed at people who can afford to own an empty mansion.

THE POST SAYS:

But that $5 million limit applies only to 1-, 2- or 3-family homes, which are taxed starting at 0.8%

For co-ops or condos, which are far more likely to be owned as second residences, taxation starts on units valued at $1 million, and the starting rate is an eye-watering 4.0%.

That hits a much more modest crowd than the mayor implies.

Far from applying just to some oligarch who parks tens of millions of dollars in an empty luxury high-rise, it includes, for instance, a retired couple who bought a modest one-bedroom 20 years ago for $350,000 that the city now says is worth $1 million.

This couple, perhaps living in their apartment for four months of the year, or letting a relative stay there occasionally, would now owe an added $40,000 in taxes on top of whatever property taxes they already pay.

As with most "tax the rich" plans, Mamdani's $5 million cutoff couldn't raise enough cash to satisfy his spending dreams, so he "discovered" that the moderately well-to-do or even somewhat prosperous are also failing to chip in their "fair share," though he's careful not to brag about that.

An added insult: His X boast says this is to pay for the "best parks, libraries and schools in the world," when the city's public schools are more "tragic" than "best," with highest-in-the-nation costs and mediocre results.

In all, a pretty low-down, dirty piece of work: The would-be class-war hero doesn't dare tell the truth, let alone deliver the value he brags about.

All he's got is pure performance.

Groceries? There's not much in store

Mayor Mamdani's Economic Development Corporation admitted this week that his city-owned grocery stores "might not have all the items" you'd find in a typical supermarket.

The five stores — which are expected to cost taxpayers upwards of $70 million — will likely not include hot-food counters or butchers, EDC officials revealed during a board meeting Thursday.

"It may not have all the items, but it's going to be like a typical grocery store," insisted Jeanny Pak, interim CEO of the EDC, the powerful city-run nonprofit tasked with boosting economic growth and development.

Pak also echoed Mamdani's assertion that only certain items in the stores would be discounted.

"We did a lot of analysis of what people buy in terms of their everyday goods," she said. "Even if there are a lot of people who buy soda, we're not discounting soda."

The head-scratching statements around what exactly the city-owned stores would offer led some social-media users to poke fun at the seemingly convoluted project.

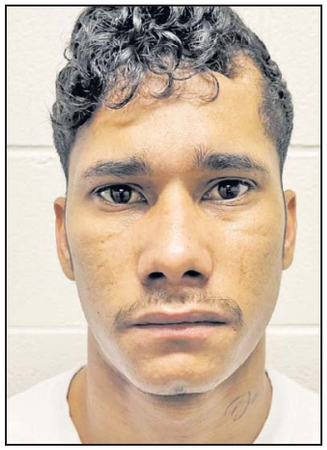
"OMG, this is just destined to fail," said one user on X. "Anyone with experience with a grocery store there? This is just such a bad idea."

Another X user likened the concept to another popular chain. "This is a Trader Joe's, basically," they wrote.

On the campaign trail, Mamdani had vowed to open one city-owned grocery store in each borough, claiming that he would "use the power of government to lower prices and make it easier for New Yorkers to put food on the table."

But nearly eight months into his tenure, only two out of his five promised supermarkets have specific locations finalized, and the first one won't open till at least 2027. *Hannah Fierick*

‘Dems failed us’



TAKING A STAND: Jessica Gorman, whose daughter Sheridan (below) was slain by an illegal migrant Jose Medina (left), stands with supporters and rips into Democrats’ sanctuary laws on Friday.

Vaughn Golden

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

YORKTOWN — The grieving parents of the 18-year-old Westchester County native allegedly killed by an illegal migrant in Chicago ripped Gov. Hochul and New York Democrats Friday, demanding they reverse new, sweeping sanctuary laws.

“Frankly, I’m furious that the politicians we chose did not choose us in return,” said Sheridan Gorman’s mother, Jessica Gorman, crying, as dozens of supporters standing behind her were themselves brought to tears.

“I worry about your children, the children of New York, of this nation,” Gorman said, describing the ongoing pain she feels from her daughter’s loss while deriding Albany Dems.

“I worry that another parent will one day collapse on their child’s empty bed, begging God screaming into their pillow because the same politicians made the same deadly choices all over again,” she said.

‘That is not justice’

Her daughter, a freshman Loyola University student, was allegedly gunned down by a migrant who’d had multiple run-ins with law-enforcement before he murdered her in cold blood as she walked along Lake Michigan to see the Northern Lights with friends on March 19.

“The system had repeated opportunities to act and they repeatedly let him go, and as a result our daughter will never walk through the front door again,” Sheridan’s father, Thomas Gorman, said.

Jose Medina, 26, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder and illegal possession of a firearm.

The Venezuelan migrant had entered the country illegally in 2023 and was detained at the southern border before being released into the United States, the Department of Homeland Security has said.

Chicago police had previously busted him on assault charges, but he’d been released and never returned court, authorities said.

“That is not compassion, that is not justice,” Gorman said. “That is government failure measured in the life of a child.

“I ask Governor Hochul and every politician defending these policies, how many warnings are enough?” he asked.

The Gorman family was flanked by Hudson Valley Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY), who faces a tough re-election bid in November, as well as GOP candidate for governor Bruce Blakeman outside the Yorktown Police Department, just down the road from where the teen had graduated high school. Green lights outside the building, and all over Yorktown, were put up in honor of her memory.

Just minutes after the parents finished speaking, Hochul and state Attorney General Letitia James announced they were putting Blakeman, the Nassau County executive, and heads of 11 other municipalities who have inked agreements to work with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement on notice to immediately cease those arrangements by Aug. 25 to comply with New York’s newly passed sanctuary law.

Ma of slain teen blasts sanctuary

Number of states with bug ‘runs’ to 9

A diarrhea-inducing parasite is exploding across the country — with four new states now listed in the outbreak of cyclosporiasis infections linked to iceberg lettuce.

Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania have been added to a list of nine total states where patients were reported as being both infected with cyclospora and exposed to Taco Bell, the Food and Drug Administration revealed Friday.

They join Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky.

The agency, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is investigating the multistate outbreak “linked to iceberg lettuce sourced from central Mexico and recalled by Taylor Farms de Mexico,” according to the FDA.

Last week, the agency said a traceback investigation “identified convergence on a single supplier, Taylor Farms de Mexico, that provided shredded iceberg lettuce used by Taco Bell locations where sick people ate before becoming ill.”

However, the FDA then reported a false positive in a lettuce sample from the produce giant. The agency clarified what that meant Friday.

“To clarify, this false-positive lab sample DOES NOT change the basis for FDA’s ongoing outbreak investigation or the overwhelming epidemiological data supporting the current voluntary recall by Taylor Farms,” the FDA wrote on its website.

Jared Downing

INSIDE TODAY

News Columns
Liel Leibovitz 4
Isaac Schorr 13
Kirsten Fleming 18
Gossip
Page Six 16
Post Opinion p. 23-25
Fun & Games
Su Doku 26
Crosswords 26
Scrabble Grams 26
Horoscope 39
Business p. 27-28
Classifieds p. 29
Sports p. 29-49
Post Action 32-33
Weather p. 39
TV Decider p. 50-51

LOTTERY

NEW YORK
- Midday Nos. Fri.: **540**
- Midday Win-4 Fri.: **9468**
- Midday Take-5 Fri.: **13, 14, 15, 28, 34**
- Evening Nos. Fri.: **861**
- Evening Win-4 Fri.: **5867**
- Evening Take-5 Fri.: **7, 14, 25, 31, 33**
- Pick-10 Fri.: **7, 11, 14, 15, 19, 26, 28, 30, 33, 36, 42, 44, 49, 56, 62, 63, 67, 68, 69, 78**
- Millionaire for Life Fri.: **22, 23, 27, 38, 54**; MB **1**
- Mega Millions Fri.: **2, 5, 42, 44, 60**; MB: **1**

NEW JERSEY
- Pick-3 Fri.: **367**; Fireball: **8**
- Pick-4 Fri.: **8879**; Fireball: **8**
- Cash-5 Xtra Fri.: **8, 25, 26, 36, 38**; Xtra: **3**

CONNECTICUT
- Play-3 Fri.: **295**; Wild: **1**
- Play-4 Fri.: **0519**; Wild: **8**
- Cash-5 Fri.: **10, 11, 15, 23, 33**

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REHEATED DINNER

'3RD TERM' A CHARM? President Trump yuks it up at the White House Correspondents' Dinner do-over gala Friday evening about remaining in office for one more term.

Second go after halted by assassin

By VICTOR NAVA

President Trump played comedian in chief Friday night at the rescheduled White House Correspondents' Dinner, where he had the room roaring as he quipped about a third term, his foes in the media and trying to pair dress shoes with bulletproof vests in an entertaining and cutthroat speech.

"As I said three months ago, the show must go on," Trump said at the pared-down, more intimate dinner, three months after the initial night of celebration was cut short by the attempted assassination of the president.

"Won't soon be forgotten," the president said of the April dinner, "and I think a lot was learned from that evening.

"But just like my presidency, the second time is always better. It's always better, and the third time will be better yet," he joked to a chorus of laughter.

Near the end of his speech, the president even donned a "Trump 2028" hat as he jokingly announced he'd be running for a "fourth term,"calling it a "scoop" for the reporters in the room.

Trump opened his address by praising the heroics of law enforcement and the Secret Service, and commended administration officials for looking out for the press when shots rang out outside the Washington Hilton ballroom — before ribbing a Grammy-nominated supporter who was also in the crowd that night.

Wisecracks aplenty

"After hearing the gunshots, many people yelled, 'Get down! Get down!' which caused Nicki Minaj to start twerking," he quipped. "Do you believe?"

Later, Trump joked about trying to pair nice dress shoes with a bulletproof vest — and how he didn't want to wear the protective gear because it made him look heavier.

"Everyone's looking really good tonight, and I know it was not easy finding shoes to go along with your bulletproof vest, which many people didn't want to wear because they'd rather die than look 20 pounds heavier," he jested.

"They put one on me. I said, 'Are you sure? I'm not wearing this!" Striking a more serious tone, he also praised the bravery and strength of the reporters and lawmakers in the room — and extolled the American spirit.

"Tonight we come back together to answer that heinous attack with unwavering resolve . . . to show that in America we do not yield to political violence. We don't. We can't do that. Can't do it. So in this country we live in freedom of speech. We settle our differences not with bullets, but with open and vigorous debate. And no deranged loser with a gun will ever change that," he said.

Prior to the president's remarks, numerous journalism awards and scholarships were handed out. When a team of reporters from The Wall Street Journal was honored for a report on Trump's ties to notorious sex criminal Jeffrey Epstein, the president was seen laughing and throwing his hands up in the air before graciously shaking hands with all the journalists.

The president, of course, also didn't pass up the chance to take some jabs at the press and his political foes. "This place is really the largest group of Trump derangement syndrome people ever put together at one time," he cracked.

As the president reminisced about last month's cage fight outside the Oval Office, he joked, "Before I came along, if you wanted to see someone lose consciousness on the South Lawn of the White House, all you had to do is ask Joe Biden a question."

Trump then joked that he'd like to see Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) "have a rematch against an extremely simple question on a foreign policy from the Munich Security Conference," referring to the "Squad" lawmaker's embarrassing showing at the high-profile European forum.

Trump also zinged potential 2028 White House hopeful Gavin Newsom, a frequent critic of the president.

"I heard Gavin Newscum recently said we will lose our country if we don't fight fire with fire," Trump said, before ripping his handling of the devastating California wildfires. "To be fair, there's only one thing we know about Gavin, and that's that he definitely doesn't want to fight fire with water."

Change of venue

The dinner was held at the posh Waldorf Astoria in downtown Washington, which was previously the Trump International Hotel, marking the first time in more than five decades that the gathering of press and political figures hasn't been held at the Washington Hilton.

Trump had vowed to hold a redo of the April 25 dinner, which was canceled after a deranged gunman ran through a security checkpoint and allegedly shot a Secret Service agent before being taken down just steps away from the Hilton ballroom.

The alleged gunman, Cole Thomas Allen, has been charged with attempting to assassinate the president and is awaiting trial.

The shooting prompted organizers and the Secret Service to heighten security for the rescheduled dinner.

Attendees were subject to three security checkpoints, which included multiple ID checks and Secret Service magnetometers, before entering the Waldorf's ballroom — which has less than a quarter of the Washington Hilton's capacity, making it easier to vet attendees.

The event did not feature the sprawling cocktail receptions that previous dinners have had.

Traditional printed passes were also replaced with digital ones and an outside security firm was brought in to screen guests as well.

Unlike April's dinner, Vice President JD Vance and First Lady Melania Trump did not attend.

Notable Trump administration officials in attendance included War Secretary Pete Hegseth, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin, acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, United Nations Ambassador Mike Waltz and White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein

‘Steer clear of US sites’

By DAVID DeTURRIS

Iran’s notorious Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) paramilitary warned residents of seven Middle Eastern countries to keep their distance from US interests — including American-owned hotels, banks and corporate headquarters.

“To all citizens and residents of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Syria,” the IRGC wrote in a message on the social media platform Telegram. “For your safety, you are urged to immediately stay away from military and security bases, facilities, and headquarters, as well as locations where U.S. forces are deployed. Do not approach any area witnessing military movements or exceptional security measures.

“Immediately maintain a distance of at least 500 meters [1,640 feet] from any covert or concealed accommodations used by U.S. military personnel,” the message continued. “These locations include American hotels, American banks, American companies, high-rise towers, properties owned by the Trump family, and investments associated with them.”

President Trump has developments or planned projects in the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The IRGC also claimed responsibility Friday for an attack on a US base in Udairi, Kuwait, which it claimed set ablaze three ammunition and storage sheds, destroying them. It also claimed to have struck and damaged a watchtower for the U.S. Navy’s Fifth Fleet, based in Bahrain.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) did not respond to inquiries about the claims. Bahrain said it intercepted and shot down Iranian aerial attacks on Friday, but did not say if there were any casualties or damage.

Elsewhere, US-led forces shot down five explosive-laden drones Friday over the city of Erbil in northern Iraq, according to security officials. No injuries or damage were reported.

Meanwhile, Jordan’s armed forces said they had downed seven Iranian missiles and six drones Friday. *With Wires*

Bahrain & Kuwait jets target regime

Bahrain and Kuwait quietly sent fighter jets to strike military targets inside Iran earlier this month, the first known direct attacks by the two Gulf nations against Tehran.

The Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter, reported Friday that the strikes hit drone and missile storage facilities in addition to other sites.

The covert operation came after weeks of retaliatory Iranian attacks targeting Bahrain and Kuwait, both of which host US military bases. The Journal reported that officials concluded they could no longer allow Tehran to continue attacks without a military response.

The United Arab Emirates also reportedly played a role in the strikes by providing intelligence on potential targets and defensive air cover, a sign of increasing security operations against Iran by Gulf Arab states.

Despite the reported military assistance, the UAE publicly supported lowering tensions in the region in a statement cited by the WSJ.

Spokespeople for the Bahrain and Kuwait governments did not immediately respond to requests for comment. *Caitlin Doornbos*

SHIPS ARE

Furtive traffic inches along amid renewed war

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

WASHINGTON — The world’s most important oil chokepoint is becoming a black hole.

Commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has slowed dramatically since the US resumed strikes on Iran two weeks ago, with traffic falling to levels not seen since the height of the conflict as insurance costs soar and security risks mount — but some vessels secretly continue to brave the waterway anyway.

Iran declared the strait closed, threatening any ships that dare to transit the international waterway without Tehran’s express permission. The US holds that the strait remains open — except to ships sailing to or from Iranian ports.

Some vessels are disappearing from public tracking systems, maritime analysts say, while others appear to be sailing closer to Iran’s side of the narrow waterway — raising fresh questions about whether Tehran is quietly tightening its grip on global commerce and if it’s profiting from ships seeking safe passage.

ID system ‘disabled’

The unusual traffic patterns come after weeks of Iranian attacks and threats against commercial shipping sent the rate of vessels sailing through the strait plunging.

There were roughly 15 ships tracked through the strait between Thursday and Friday — down about 50% from the average traffic during the US-Iran cease-fire.

Pre-war traffic through the strait hovered between 130 and 150 ships per day.

But publicly available tracking websites no longer capture the full picture because some captains are disabling their Automatic Identification System transponders before entering the danger zone, according to maritime intelligence firms.

That has fueled speculation over how much business is actually flowing through Hormuz — and whether Iran is financially benefiting despite crushing US sanctions.

Earlier reporting during the conflict suggested some commercial shippers were asked to pay as much as $2 million for assurances of safe passage through waters threatened by Iran and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

However, there has been no public accounting of how many vessels ultimately agreed to such arrangements or whether the practice continues.

If ships are paying such fees, even on a limited basis, the regime could be generating tens to hundreds of millions of dollars while maintaining pressure on one of the world’s busiest maritime corridors.

The true figure, however, remains impossible to verify publicly because so much shipping activity is now obscured from open-source tracking.

But any amount is too much, according to US officials.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned this week that allowing Tehran to dictate access through the strait would create a “dangerous precedent,” arguing that freedom of navigation remains a vital US national security interest.

‘Dangerous precedent’

“If we create a precedent in the Middle East where a nation-state can decide that they are going to control an international waterway, charge a toll, and if you don’t pay them, blow up your ships, we have created a very dangerous precedent which will repeat itself in other parts of the world, including in this region,” Rubio said Wednesday at the annual Associa-

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

SCARED 'STRAIT'

SEA CHANGE: Since the US resumed strikes on Iran, commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz — which the Islamic Republic has declared closed — has fallen to levels not seen since the height of the conflict between the warring nations. Some vessels appear to be sailing closer to the Iranian side.

ABEDIN TAHERKENAREH/EPA/Shutterstock

tion of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Manila.

Asia is home to many critical waterways — such as the Strait of Malacca and the Taiwan Strait — that currently operate toll-free.

Even if Tehran isn't collecting a dime from passing ships, it has already achieved something strategically valuable: convincing parts of the global shipping industry that navigating Hormuz now means accounting for Iran's wishes, experts say.

"Iran's chokehold remains, even if Washington says the waters are open," said a regional source familiar with shipping activity in the strait.

The apparent shift has also prompted a broader question: Why isn't the US Navy — which has as many as 20 ships in the region — stopping it?

The answer largely comes down to international law. US warships generally cannot stop or board foreign merchant vessels simply because they are sailing near Iran or choosing a particular route through the Strait of Hormuz, Coast Guard sources and international maritime law state.

Unless a ship is violating US sanctions, transporting prohibited cargo or otherwise provides legal grounds for interdiction, merchant vessels retain the right of innocent passage through the international waterway.

Don: Ready but in no hurry

President Trump said Friday that the US military is "locked and loaded" and ready to carry out his threatened "massive attack" on Iran, but he's "not in a hurry" to do so as negotiations continue.

"We're locked and loaded. We're ready to go. But we're talking to them. So maybe there will be, maybe there won't be a tipping point," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

"Maybe they will cry 'uncle,' or maybe they'll just give up, or maybe they'll just go into a cave and hide. You know, they have caves very deep in the ground and they can hide."

Trump said he sensed Iranian officials were "getting more and more serious" about reaching a new deal with the US after a preliminary peace plan signed by the president June 17 collapsed over continued Iranian attacks on commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz.

"I think they're getting more and more serious as the days go by, for maybe the obvious reason, but we are talking to them right now," Trump said. "We're talking to them. So I think while we're talking, we'll see what comes of it. Despite what everyone says about the [midterm] election, I'm not in a hurry."

Steven Nelson

Laura scared straight

SEEING IS BELIEVING: After witnessing war-torn Ukraine and sitting with President Volodymyr Zelensky, MAGA influencer Laura Loomer has changed her view. "I am floored with how many Russian lies I fell for," she said.

X/@LauraLoomer

Ukraine epiphany better late than never

EVERYBODY loves a redemption arc, and Laura Loomer's abrupt reversal on the war in Ukraine is a particularly rewarding one.

In the days, weeks, months and even years following Russia's unprovoked invasion, Loomer — a popular MAGA influencer and far-right conspiracy theorist — joined a majority of her peers in assailing Ukraine, its leader and its American supporters.

In no uncertain terms, too.

Loomer had described Ukraine as "a country full of Nazi apologists," cast doubt on the ghastly civilian casualty count it has suffered and lambasted President Volodymyr Zelensky as both a "fake Jew" and a "Jihadi apologist."

Yet on Thursday, she conducted an amiable interview of Zelensky during her first-ever visit to the war-torn nation.

And by the time she sat down with her ex-punching bag, she'd undergone a laudable change of heart.

"Just experienced my first air raid in Ukraine. Sirens blaring. This is every day for every Ukrainian," she marveled on Tuesday.

Even more impressively, she had admitted to — and apologized for — amplifying destructive Russian propaganda.

"There are people in Ukraine who have to run to a bomb shelter every day and some of us had the audacity to say Russia wasn't wrong because we believed the lie that Ukraine is a country full of Nazi sympathizers," Loomer lamented.

She connected the dots

"I said the worst things about Ukraine and then I traveled here myself in the middle of their war to learn more about Ukraine with my own eyes and I am floored with how many Russian lies I fell for."

Her conversion story is an especially compelling and consequential one.

First, Loomer is being forthright about the contrast between the basis of her initial armchair attacks on Ukraine's righteous cause, and the logic behind her U-turn.

From afar, it was easy to lose the plot in a sea of disinformation and bad incentives.

Many on the right had overreacted to the faux Trump-Russia collusion scandal by concluding that Vladimir Putin's government was a natural US ally that had only been treated as an enemy because of a deep-state frame job.

But in truth, Russia had attempted to meddle in the 2016 election — and that's the least of its sins over the last two decades.

At every conceivable opportunity, the Kremlin's KGB agent-turned-dictator has undermined American interests and sown chaos across the globe.

And he capitalized on Russiagate with an influence operation designed to turn his regime into a wedge issue.

Without ever having personally suffered at Putin's hands, Loomer became preoccupied in a petty, partisan fight that whitewashed his intentions.

But after living as he's forced the Ukrainians to, even for just a few days, she could no longer deny the autocrat's monstrous actions.

Second, Loomer has connected the dots between Russia and America's other two major geopolitical adversaries: Iran and China.

"I am deeply disturbed as an American citizen about how many American minds have been warped to support Russia's third world slop that pushes communism and a multipolar world where Xi, the Ayatollah and Putin are our masters," she proclaimed.

That's a key insight.

Moscow, Tehran and Beijing *are* collaborating to advance each other's sinister objectives.

That's why Russia is — as Loomer now points out — arming Iran amid the latter's ongoing shooting war with Uncle Sam.

Hit 'em where it hurts

And why it formed a "no limits" strategic partnership with Beijing in advance of its February 2022 attack on Ukraine.

Any worthwhile 21st-century American foreign policy will name and counteract this new axis of evil.

Perhaps most important, Loomer's Road to Kyiv moment comes at a critical juncture.

Congress is poised to consider the late Sen. Lindsey Graham's Sanctioning Russia Act, which would impose a 100% tariff on imports from countries that purchase Russian energy products among other potent measures.

The legislation would hit Putin where it hurts, and reportedly has support both within Trump's administration and among many Democrats.

Still, there are no sure things in Washington.

Loomer maintains a close relationship with the president and has shaped administration policy before; that she's now lobbying for Graham's bill ("We need to whip those votes") can't hurt.

It's time to give Russia hell — and even Laura Loomer thinks so.

TONY ROMO
Top CBS NFL analyst.

DWI bust for CBS's Romo

Tony Romo's arrest for operating while under the influence occurred the same day as the final round of the Wisconsin Amateur Championship golf tournament, where the former Dallas Cowboys quarterback and current CBS analyst finished 35-over par.

Romo, who attended Burlington HS in Wisconsin, shot 12-over during the final round of the golf tournament Thursday, and he was pulled over while traveling south on Interstate 43, according to an arrest detention report obtained by The Post.

He "performed poorly" on field sobriety tests, according to the report, and received a Sept. 21 court date.

The fine for a first-time DWI offense is between $150 and 300, along with a $435 DWI surcharge, according to the penalty chart.

CBS declined to comment on Romo's arrest, according to The Athletic.

Andrew Crane

'5th drown vic' anguish

The fifth victim in the Ohio river drowning tragedy has been identified as a bright 18-year-old who dreamed of becoming a first responder and saving lives, according to his mother — who spent her birthday identifying his body.

Jonathan Vargas was identified Thursday as the final victim in the devastating mass drowning in the Scioto River over the weekend after a fishing trip turned deadly, Univision News reported. *Ella Morrison*

Zen yen for spidey fashion

VCG via Getty Images

Ravishing Zendaya — in Shanghai Friday on her "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" media tour — takes our breath away in this stunning Atelier Versace spider web-themed dress complete with an eye-catching Chopard arachnid brooch.

'Zombie' edibles at camp

More than a dozen children at a New Jersey summer camp chowed down on suspected mushroom-laced chocolate, sending the group into a "zombie"-like state and hospitalizing one, according to a report.

The campers, aged between 10 and 13 years old, consumed the apparent edibles at the East Orange YMCA Thursday, creating a concerning ordeal for parents and counselors.

"When I arrived, there were 13 children; they looked like zombies," Cynthia Cunningham, who raced her 12-year-old child to the hospital, told ABC7.

Cunningham's kid was one of 13 campers who were given the chocolate from another camper at the East Orange YMCA Thursday.

Shortly after they ate the suspected laced candy bar, one of the children began to feel ill. Twelve other campers soon developed similar symptoms, per police.

Emergency personnel got to the scene and evaluated the group, who were all in stable condition.

The YMCA told ABC7 in a statement that "when staff noticed campers having an adverse reaction to the substance, we immediately enacted our emergency protocols, contacting emergency services, parents and the police." *Daniel Cody*

WORKER WAGE GROWTH

'Outpacing inflation'

By STEVEN NELSON

WASHINGTON — Working-class Americans are faring well financially despite elevated inflation caused by the Iran war — with their wage gains significantly outpacing inflation over the past year, according to an analysis of data released this week.

In the second quarter of 2026, ending in June, those at or below the national median income reported big gains, beating the inflation rate of 3.5%, The Wall Street Journal reports.

Earners at or below the median saw weekly wage gains of 4.6% over the past year. Those at or below the 25th percentile — meaning the poorest quarter of workers — had weekly pay jump 5.5%, the Bureau of Labor Statistics records showed.

The White House celebrated the data as evidence of President Trump's policies working as intended.

Drug prices down

"President Trump pledged to deliver economic relief for the American people after four years of Joe Biden's malfeasance and incompetence. The proven Trump economic agenda of working-class tax cuts, rapid deregulation, and energy abundance is delivering," said White House spokesman Kush Desai.

Another White House official noted that aside from wages, last month's Consumer Price Index report, which showed a dip in energy costs — before the war resumed — had other promising indicators, including a 2.5% annual drop in prescription drug prices, after Trump browbeat pharmaceutical companies into lowering rates to align with other major countries.

The wage findings have significant political and economic ramifications — with economists telling the Journal that it could explain growing consumer spending, which has helped keep the broader economy strong despite jumping energy prices caused by Iran's months-long closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

It also indicates that the pain of inflation isn't being felt as bitterly by lower-income Americans, who typically are hit hardest due to having less discretionary income.

Trump's tax cuts on overtime, tips and Social Security benefits generally are claimed when filing taxes — meaning the beginning of the year.

Democrats are leading Republicans in polls ahead of the November midterm election, which will dictate control of Congress during Trump's final two years in office — with the race testing the resilience of Trump's 2024 coalition, which included big gains among Hispanics and the working class.

Middle not as well

Some of Trump's best-known policies have unclear contributions to lower-end earnings, including his mass-deportation campaign targeting illegal immigrants, who can compete with citizens for jobs that do not require higher education.

Trump has used tariffs to boost US exports and domestic manufacturing, but neither has yet notched significant gains in federal data.

Although real income gains are reported for the bottom half of earners, the picture is less rosy slightly higher up the ladder.

Middle-to-upper-middle class wages haven't kept up with inflation — with the benchmark for the 75th percentile improving just 1.5% over the past year.

Trump has catered his political message to this demographic by frequently mentioning the roaring stock market, driven by the artificial intelligence boom, which has lifted 401(k) retirement accounts.

Top earners, whose status is more difficult to assess from the BLS quarterly data, are still doing well.

Bank of America data cited by the Journal show annual wage gains are still strongest among the upper third of workers who use the bank.

MA EYED IN HORROR

She died along with 5 kin

LOST: Sarah Myers (with ex Brady Harmon), their kids and her mom, Amy Steadman, (top left) were killed June 23.

Brady Harmon

By CHRIS BRADFORD

A New York mom who was killed in a grandmother's murder-suicide alongside her four children may have been complicit in their deaths, cops have theorized amid their investigation.

Amy Steadman, 64, Sarah Myers, 44, and Harper Harmon, 13; Hudson Harmon, 11; Gavin Harmon, 10, and Gracelynn Harmon, 10 — were all found dead inside Steadman's Mechanicville apartment on June 23 — with investigators initially saying the evidence "strongly suggests" Steadman was "involved" in their deaths.

But now cops are not ruling out the possibility that Steadman may not have acted alone.

"I do want to make one important point clear. We have not ruled out that Sarah Myers was also complicit in the deaths of her children," Mechanicville Police Chief William Rabbitt told NBC5 Wednesday, without divulging further.

"You may quote me on that. I understand that statement will raise additional questions, but I will not be able to answer them at this time."

Cops are still waiting for toxicology results — and Rabbitt said he hoped more details could be shared next week.

There is "still a great deal to be said" in relation to the case, Rabbitt said.

The six bodies of the family members were found last month after a neighbor requested a welfare check.

One of the children was found with a fatal "sharp injury," while the rest appeared to have been poisoned.

"There is recovered evidence from inside the apartment indicating intentional poisoning — to include numerous prescriptions and over-the-counter medications," Rabbitt said at the time.

Rabbitt also revealed that a handwritten note was found, and it suggested Steadman was the chief suspect. He did not reveal what the note said.

Myers — Steadman's daughter — was found dead amid a bitter custody battle with her ex-husband Brady Harmon, who lives in Utah. He had not seen his children in person since November 2019, but they were supposed to be in the Beehive State between July and September.

He previously told The Post that the last time he spoke with the children was for 15 minutes on June 7.

"They seemed like happy little kids," he said.

But he had previously expressed concerns about the kids' welfare, and claimed Steadman didn't want him to see them, the Times-Union reported.

'Shore'ly Earth's top spot

The travel lords have spoken, and this beach has been crowned the best in the world.

A team from Beach.com reviewed hundreds of submissions and analyzed nearly 100,000 reviews to determine the top 10 beaches on Earth.

Trunk Bay, a supreme crescent of clear water and perfect sand on the north shore of St. John in the US Virgin Islands, has bested all others to claim the top spot.

In addition to being stunningly beautiful, the beach is well protected because it lies within the Virgin Islands National Park, which covers nearly 60% of the island, including almost all of the north shore.

"Few beaches came close to Trunk Bay's final score. It is truly the best beach in the world," said Beach.com.

"In our analysis, it is among the most widely expert-recommended, holds one of the best average Google ratings and has some of the bluest waters in the world."

Trunk Bay is one of three US locations to make the top-10 list, with Flamenco Beach in Puerto Rico falling at No. 4 and Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge in St. Croix taking the No. 7 slot. *Reda Wigle*

Plane in fiery crash

A floatplane carrying 10 passengers and a pilot burst into flames as it crashed while trying to make an emergency landing in the waters off a Washington island Thursday — leaving several on board injured, including one critically.

The de Havilland DHC-3 single-engine bush plane went down about 90 miles north of Seattle around 5:15 p.m. local time, roughly 45 minutes after taking off from Seattle, the US Coast Guard told Fox 13 News.

The floatplane, owned by Kenmore Air, was attempting an emergency landing before catching fire. *Richard Pollina*

Boat seriously, folks, cardboard?!

Lone Pine Press

SOGGY SAILING: "Cardboard" regatta.

It was a *tearably* good race.

Dozens of paddlers took on a test of maritime skill on the Hudson River Thursday — as they built their own kayaks out of cardboard and competed in a series of races that marked the opening ceremony for New York's City of Water Day.

The wet-n-wild weirdness was won by a team from Manhattan Kayak, which, unlike many of their competitors, managed to stay afloat in the river currents and steam to multiple wins with a Saran-wrapped dinghy emblazoned with a stylish shark on the front.

"I feel amazing! I've been training every day, all day for this!" said Thomas Barber, one of the brainiacs who helped keep the paper boat afloat.

Barber and his team, representing the rental service of the same name, were one of 23 groups vying for the crown at the annual race at Pier 84.

The festivities, hosted by Manhattan Kayak and Hudson River Park, celebrate the city's sprawling waterways and their increasing cleanliness. *Xavier Serrano and Katherine Donlevy*

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Brookville | 12 Quaker Ridge Drive
$5,999,000 | 6 BR, 8 BA, 1 HALF BA | Web# 901446
Joseph Scavo: O 516.629.2212 | M 516.359.2672

AVAILABLE
Cherry Grove | 55 Lewis Walk
$5,250,000 | 4 BR, 3 BA, 1 HALF BA | Web# 1021398
Nikola Cejic: O 631.329.9400 | M 631.604.8323
Ray Lord: O 631.329.9400 | M 646.856.2809

AVAILABLE
Muttontown | 5 Buckingham Court
$3,650,000 | 4 BR, 4 BA, 1 HALF BA | Web# 1016622
Linda Freedman: O 516.921.2262 | M 917.743.2724

AVAILABLE
Greenwich | 4 Mercia Lane
$3,150,000 | 4 BR, 3 BA, 1 HALF BA | Web# 125111
Evangela Brock: O 203.622.4900 | M 203.253.2356

AVAILABLE
Hyde Park | 252 Crum Elbow Road
$2,999,000 | 3 BR, 2 BA | Web# 992909
John Oliveira: O 914.447.2081 | M 914.447.2081
Stacey Pinkas: O 914.723.6800 | 646.734.7860

AVAILABLE
Armonk | 6 Cliff Place
$2,100,000 | 6 BR, 4 BA | Web# 984497
Jessica Feuerstein: O 914.273.1001 | M 301.257.8624
Elina Edelman: O 914.273.1001 | M 917.364.6151

AVAILABLE
Southold | 25 Lighthouse Road
$1,899,000 | 4 BR, 2 BA, 1 HALF BA | Web# 983217
Janet Bidwell: O 631.298.6135 | M 631.255.4088

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Banker barks at town tree-ment

Page Six®

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IT'S a log jam! A Goldman Sachs chief became locked in a battle with Martha's Vineyard locals last year after he chopped down protected trees to build a $32 million mansion.

And after suffering a new setback, Page Six has learned, he's still not ready to leaf well enough alone.

Authorities have told **John Waldron**, who's No. 2 at the Wall Street giant and a front-runner to succeed **David Solomon** at the helm, to replant the trees — but we're told he's filed an appeal against parts of that order.

Waldron and his wife, **Amanda** — a former Goldman banker herself — bought a vacant Edgartown lot in 2020 and built a four-bedroom summer home on it. But things got stick-y last spring after they decided to swing the ol' Goldman ax and raze 19 trees, some reportedly up to 60 years old and 60 feet tall.

When officials discovered in August that the couple had removed the cedars and pines — allegedly to improve the view from their mansion — it became a saw point.

The chopping job was allegedly in violation of protections put in place to preserve the area's wetlands. Edgartown ordered the Waldrons to submit a plan to repair the damage.

The couple submitted the proposal early this year, but the town said the plan was incomplete. Meanwhile, the Waldrons accused the town of taking too much time to deal with the issue and bumped it up to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, asking it to take over the review.

Earlier this month, the DEP approved the plan — but said its ruling didn't "nullify or supersede" Edgartown's order, meaning the town could still require further fir-y fixes.

Then on Monday, the Waldrons appealed part of the DEP ruling. They are not challenging the approval of the restoration plan itself. Rather, documents reviewed by Page Six show, they argue Edgartown lost jurisdiction when it took too long to consider their proposal.

The DEP couldn't be reached for comment.

"The Perfect Couple"? Joyous Nicole Kidman is spotted with American financier Michael Reinstein in Portofino, Italy, in a romantic poolside meeting.

COBRA TEAM/ BACKGRID

Crime of fashion

LIKE a scene from "Zoolander," the New York Times included ousted Venezuelan dictator **Nicolás Maduro** on a recent list of the most stylish people, then quickly pulled his name. Look on the Times' site and you'll see 39 (more expected) names, including **Justin Bieber**, **John Travolta**, **Amy Poehler**, **Josh O'Connor** and Olympian **Eileen Gu**. But an eagle-eyed media insider spotted an "amazing little correction" on the July 7 post soon after the piece published. The Gray Lady's Style section told readers: "This article has been updated to remove an entry on Nicolás Maduro." It then directs readers to a story "about how an image of him in a tracksuit became a meme."

Singin' on a prayer

"BAD Medicine"! **Jon Bon Jovi** abruptly ended the Bon Jovi Madison Square Garden show Thursday night because of a sinus infection, the singer's rep told Page Six. They added, "Jon has said numerous times that it has been a joy to return to live shows for the band." The rocker (above) was in the middle of the band's eighth show in their nine-night residency at the Garden when he paused after they performed "Livin' on a Prayer." "I'm sorry, I'm hurt and you're not getting the best of me," he said, an eyewitness told Page Six. "We'll figure out how to reschedule."

Breezy guilty plea in UK

CHRIS Brown pleaded guilty yesterday in a London court to a charge of "affray" related to a 2023 nightclub incident. Brown and a co-defendant, rapper **Omololu Akinlolu**, 40, both pleaded guilty at Southwark Crown Court to affray, which is using or threatening violence and making someone fear for their safety, according to the BBC. Charges for assault and having an offensive weapon (a tequila bottle) were dropped at the five-minute hearing, and Brown, 37, was freed on bail. He will be sentenced Oct. 26, with the affray charge carrying a maximum sentence of three years. The legally troubled singer was flanked by security guards at the courthouse, where a group of fans gathered, according to the Guardian. Music producer **Abe Diaw** alleges that Brown "inflicted severe and lasting injuries" after "beating him over the head" with a bottle of Don Julio 1942 in February 2023 at the Tape nightclub in Mayfair. Diaw alleged in a lawsuit that Brown proceeded to "ruthlessly stomp on" Diaw and kick him in the back of the neck, knocking him unconscious for 30 seconds. Diaw claimed the "crushing blows" sent him to the hospital with "lacerations on his head and torn ligaments in his leg." Brown has had multiple legal issues over the past 20 years. Last month, he was ordered to pay his housekeeper $13 million after she was brutally attacked by his 200-pound dog in 2020.

email us: tips @PageSix.com

Swiss miss found

SARAH Ferguson has been staying at her ex Paddy McNally's Swiss chalet after being evicted from the Royal Lodge, according to the Sun. The motor racing manager gave Ferguson refuge at his swanky home before he died this week at age 88. "Paddy always looked after Sarah, and at times over the past four decades she needed a lot of looking after," an insider told the Sun. He and Ferguson, 66, dated in the '80s.

Girdle your lungs

LUKE Evans is giving new meaning to breathless "antici——pation." The actor, 47, told **Seth Meyers** that the corset he wears in Broadway's "The Rocky Horror Show" leaves him fighting for air while he's "singing these big rock songs." His fix waits just offstage. "In the wings, I have oxygen tanks," Evans said. "I run off and they're dabbing me down and I'm taking a big gulp of oxygen."

Diddy goes solo

SEAN "Diddy" **Combs** was tossed into solitary confinement after a fight with a fellow inmate this week. The embattled music mogul got into a heated altercation after being dissed and took "matters into his own hands," TMZ reported Friday. Multiple sources told the outlet that the Fort Dix federal prisoners scuffled and pushed each other. Combs, 56, "held his own" during the incident, one insider alleged. Staff members at the New Jersey prison separated the men and put Combs in solitary confinement. It remains unclear whether he is still there — or whether the fight will affect his 2028 release date. Combs was sentenced to 50 months for two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution in October 2025, and was transferred from Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center to Fort Dix.

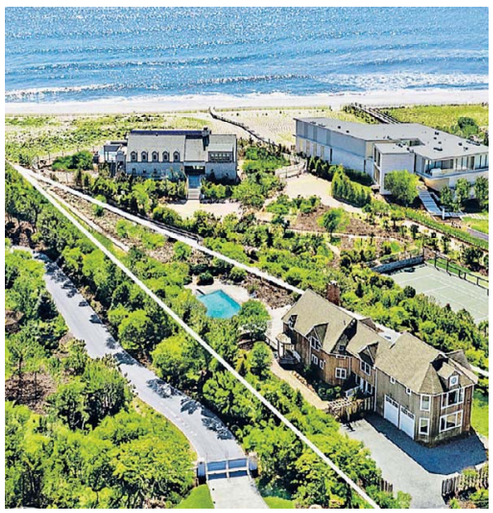
Enzo Morabito Team, the #1 Team in Waterfront Sales in the Hamptons**

DouglasElliman

Turnkey Oceanfront in Westhampton

$7,950,000 | 4 BR, 4 BA

This jetty-protected and renovated oceanfront with a right-of-way to the bay, spans 0.95 acres with 100 feet on Dune Road. Includes a gunite pool, mahogany decking and a walkway to the beach. **Web# 420815**



Oceanfront with Dock in Quogue Village

Now $6,995,000 | 5 BR, 4 BA

Experience the best of oceanfront and bayfront living on Dune Road. Approx. 5,100sf of light-filled interiors, private dock, direct beach access, 2-car garage, a large deck and gunite pool. **Web# 422747**

Just Listed Waterfront in East Quogue

$4,199,000 | 4 BR, 4 BA

Reimagined with a 2026 renovation, this home provides refined coastal living today while offering the opportunity to expand or create a larger waterfront estate. Approvals in place for a pool and patio. Co-Listed. **Web# 424429**

MARKETING WITH RESULTS

In Contract

$9,500,000 (Last Asking)

In Contract

$3,290,000 (Last Asking)

In Contract

$2,999,999 (Last Asking)

In Contract

$1,990,000 (Last Asking)

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Crazed claims hurt black players, too

KIRSTEN FLEMING

FOUL WORDS: USA Today columnist Nancy Armour somehow opined that Caitlin Clark's (22) call for better officiating puts black WNBA players in danger.

USA TODAY Network via Reuters Connect

Clark critics in *race* to bottom

HOW crazy does Caitlin Clark make people?

So crazy that USA Today columnist Nancy Armour alleged Wednesday that Clark's demands for better officiating is putting gay black WNBA colleagues in grave danger of being lynched like Emmett Till was in 1955.

That's the brief summary of Armour's unhinged column from earlier this week.

One has to wonder how she was able to type so many words while wrapped in a straitjacket.

After it was foolishly published, eyebrows were raised across social media, and Armour locked her X account. Then she issued a statement charitably calling her Till reference "inartful" but also doubling down on the sentiment.

Inartful or just plain insane, it was also disrespectful to the memory Till, who at age 14 was abducted and brutally murdered after a white woman claimed he whistled at her.

Hysterical conclusions

"It shouldn't need a reminder this country has an awful history of black people being harmed even killed in the name of 'defending' white women," Armour wrote.

"When Clark claims fouls that don't exist, when she goes on profanity-laced tirades at referees, those racists see her as a white woman in need of saving and take matters into their own hands," wrote the columnist, pointing to a "faction" of "white nationalists" in the Indiana Fever guard's fanbase.

In Armour's hysterical mind, Clark, with every alleged flop, is directing an army of bloodthirsty racists to lynch WNBA players in the street as revenge for the no-call.

I imagine all these devoted zombie fans of the lady hooper from Iowa have skillfully embroidered her No. 22 on the backs of their white robes.

We can joke the column was the ramblings of a conspiracy-obsessed, mentally ill woman. However, this slop was written and published because Armour's assertions about Clark's flops killing people underscore attitudes around the league — ones that believe intersectionality trumps merit.

And race and victimhood are always on tap.

The columnist's proof? Mercury forward Alyssa Thomas, who was suspended after landing a fist in Clark's throat, and the Aces' Chelsea Gray, who tangled with Clark, have shared racists message and threats they received after the incidents.

Do folks not realize that Clark probably receives 10 times more nasty, racialized comments and threats than anyone else in the league?

But she doesn't wallow in it or whine about it to the media. It's the sad state of 2026 that anyone with a public profile will be the recipient of unpleasant messages. Most choose to not acknowledge the demented losers who crave the recognition. However, the league also gives these messages far too much oxygen.

It's futile.

In a strange twist, just days after Clark was unmasked as the grand wizard of the hardwood, our first black president, Barack Obama, met Clark on Friday. He seemed both starstruck and protective of her.

"You're great. You're fantastic," he declared. "Don't let all this nonsense get you down."

The nonsense is nonstop. In fact, former NFL player and podcaster Emmanuel Acho said Clark was too much of a distraction and the league "doesn't necessarily need her anymore."

Greatness overlooked

Imagine that being said about Michael Jordan or Serena Williams.

Clark is a fiery player who like many other athletes chirps at the refs. Plus, in the WNBA there's a consensus that the level of officiating is poor (or worse).

But, according to Armour — who swore twice in the column that she doesn't hate Clark — the athlete should "recognize the wider consequence of her actions."

Clark will never please her detractors — not in WNBA offices, on the court or in the media. Just before she was drafted, she went on "Saturday Night Live" and thanked league legends of the past, all black women. In Time Magazine, she foolishly acknowledged her white privilege, thinking it would stop the badgering.

People stuck in 2020 hate her because she doesn't spend her days reading "White Fragility" aloud to her fans.

She simply wants to hoop and, to their grave disappointment, she does it very well. Just last week, Clark set a league record, scoring 45 points and dishing out 10 assists. But let's talk about her fatal flopping.

Haters don't see her as the generational talent who brought eyeballs, team charter flights and sold-out games in much larger venues than before.

People like Armour want Clark to dim her light in deference to the women they deem fit to be the faces of the league.

This doesn't benefit anyone in the WNBA, let alone black women. It just makes a fool like Armour believe she's a good person.

Trump 'Tariff' bridge

WASHINGTON — President Trump crowed Friday that the US will be raking in 50% of the profit from goods passing over the new Gordie Howe Bridge that connects Michigan and Canada, days after he announced massive tariffs on America's neighbor to the north.

"Canada disinvited the United States of America to the opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, which is fine, considering they are paying substantial TARIFFS to the United States, but the original Deal on the Bridge, which was terribly negotiated by a previous Administration, no longer stands," Trump said in a Truth Social post.

"We changed the terms of the Deal so that the United States of America now gets 50% of the Profit."

The president earlier this week also announced 50% tariffs on certain Canadian goods, such as wine, cement and even hockey sticks, precipitating the Canadians scrapping plans for a joint opening ceremony.

The bridge, named for the Detroit Red Wings legend, opens to traffic on Monday. "Our relationship has been challenged over the last few years," Ontario Premier Doug Ford said.

Josh Christenson

Kin double crash horror

A grandma was killed in a car crash on her way to identify her son's body six hours after he died in an accident — leaving a family "ripped apart" by the shocking double tragedy.

Carol Tinsley, a 70-year-old grandmother of six, died in the accident in Chester, England, on July 10, Cheshire Constabulary said. She was killed 30 minutes from the hospital her late son Andrew, 46, was brought to.

Andrew Tinsley died earlier in the day from suspected cold water shock after jumping into a river at a tourist hot spot, the Liverpool Echo reported.

Chris Bradford

GC Images

Joey & Maisie are bewitching

Big-screen siblings Joey King (left) and Maisie Williams enjoy a break this week from promoting "Practical Magic 2" for a hand-in-hand stroll around Chelsea. In the sequel, the sisters stumble onto a family secret: Their mom's a witch.

WON'T BE FOREVER YOUNG

'Immortality' not real

By MCKENZIE BEARD

A new study claims to have found the absolute upper limit of the human lifespan — and immortality is off the table.

Researchers at the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology in Russia focused on somatic mutations, random changes in DNA that quietly accumulate over a lifetime.

Many are harmless, but others can damage cells, interfere with how they function and drive the development of age-related diseases, including cancer.

Scientists believe these mutations are impossible to avoid completely. They can be triggered by everything from routine errors during cell division to environmental stressors, such as exposure to viruses, certain chemicals and even UV rays from the sun.

Curious how much these DNA changes actually matter for longevity, the researchers put them to the test.

The team built a model that switched off all the reversible hallmarks of aging, then left somatic mutations untouched to see how long humans could theoretically live if those genetic errors were the only thing standing in their way.

The verdict? Even in that futuristic scenario, the researchers found they would still cap the median human lifespan somewhere between 146 and 194 years.

But not every part of the body takes the same hit.

The team found that organs like the liver and skin constantly replace old cells, effectively wiping out these changes. Without any other aging factors at play, the model suggested they could maintain normal function for thousands of years.

The same can't be said for the heart and brain. Most cells in these tissues don't regularly divide and produce replacements, meaning harmful mutations accumulate and the damage becomes permanent.

Working against us

In the model, damage to neurons alone brought the median lifespan down to 194 years, while damage to heart muscle cells lowered it to 208 years. But somatic mutations aren't the whole story.

If these DNA changes alone cap the median human lifespan at around 156 years, yet people today live roughly half that long on average, the researchers said other factors must be helping pull the numbers down.

"Other aging mechanisms — such as loss of proteostasis, mitochondrial dysfunction or epigenetic changes — contribute comparably to limiting lifespan," said Dmitrii Kriukov, who led the research.

In the US, people are living longer than ever, with average life expectancy hitting a record 79 years in 2024.

Jeanne Calment of France continues to hold the title of the oldest person in recorded history with a verified age, having lived 122 years and 164 days before her death in 1997.

Teen mass killer laughs at vic

The baby-faced shooter who killed four people and wounded several others at a Georgia high school in 2024 laughed in court Friday as one of his victims spoke.

Colt Gray, 16, chuckled along with others in the court after a judge told Natalie Griffith to slow down as she gave her victim impact statement, the Daily Mail reported.

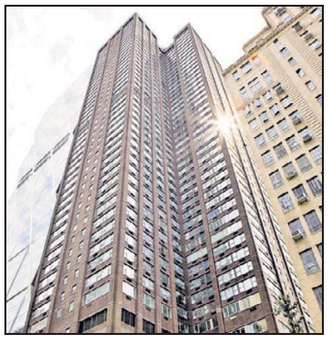
COLT GRAY

"I got shot twice, once in my wrist and once in my upper arm," Griffith said.

Gray pleaded guilty on Friday to all 55 counts in the deadly Apalachee High School shooting.

Daniel Cody, Wires

‘Broken home’ suit



KINFUL ACT: Arthur and Esther Haruvi (far left) sued daughter Michelle Haruvi (above), claiming she tried to sell a pricey condo (top left) in the Sheffield building (near left) without their knowledge.

Michelle Haruvi / LinkedIn

Parents vs. daughter in ‘sale’ fight

By LAUREN ELKIES SCHRAM

Parental love has its limits — and, in this case, it can spiral into an absolute nightmare.

A bitter family feud that has stretched on for years — including pitting brother against brother — has just reached its latest chapter, The Post has learned. And this time, two property-mogul parents who have co-managed a 500-unit Manhattan apartment portfolio are targeting their estranged daughter with legal action.

Arthur and Esther Haruvi, aged 76 and 79, respectively, are trying to halt their 47-year-old daughter Michelle from secretly selling their 1,440-square-foot, two-bedroom Manhattan condo in the Sheffield for some $3 million — claiming it’s for her to “finance and sustain her scorched-earth litigation campaign against” them, according to a bombshell federal complaint filed Wednesday in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York.

They also aim to stop her from making off with all the proceeds, as well as undistributed rental income.

‘Weaponizing assets’

The complaint adds it’s “part of a broader effort to weaponize the family’s assets for her own personal financial gain and to the detriment of her parents, from whom she is now estranged.”

Arthur, Esther and their attorneys didn’t respond to requests for comment, nor did Michelle.

Relations between Michelle and her parents fractured around 2021 due to her conduct with other family members, the parents say in the documents. No other details regarding the ongoing bad blood were provided in the suit.

In November 2012, however, matters among family members were seemingly quite good. Arthur and Esther gifted Michelle a 99% economic interest in unit 51D at the Sheffield — a 50-story tower with nearly 600 units that stands near Columbus Circle — as an act of “estate planning and as a gift,” according to the court documents.

Arthur and Esther retained 1%, as well as “their status as the only two members with the authority to manage and direct the LLC [that owns the apartment] and the Unit.”

Fourteen years on, things are quite sour.

Arthur and Esther claim Michelle secretly staged and listed the apartment “to sell the Unit out from under them, without their knowledge, consent or authorization,” according the suit.

The Haruvis claim they discovered the scheme on June 8 from a building-wide notice forwarded by their other daughter, Aileen, that announced a “Private Preview Before Public Listing.” They later learned that Michelle had hired an interior design studio to stage the apartment for prospective buyers, the suit adds.

The Haruvis are asking the federal court to block the sale, appoint a receiver to take control of the property, compel an accounting of all diverted rent and officially declare that Michelle has no legal authority to act on behalf of the LLC that owns the Sheffield apartment.

MORRIS KATZ
Owns up to bad selection.

Democrat guru: My bad on Platner

WASHINGTON — Morris Katz, the Gen Z political guru behind the rise of Mayor Mamdani and Maine Democratic Senate candidate Graham Platner, has offered a groveling, belated mea culpa over Platner’s campaign implosion after he was accused of rape.

In an interview on “The Ezra Klein Show” released Friday, Katz — a co-founder of lefty consulting group The Fight Agency — acknowledged the campaign’s lapses in judgment. But he claimed “there is no standard vetting process that would have found the credible allegation that ended the campaign.”

“That being said, in hindsight, knowing what we know now, the Reddit posts alone probably should have been enough,” Katz told Klein. “The tattoo should have been enough. The initial New York Times story on troubling behavior should have been enough.”

The Marine-turned-oyster farmer had to apologize for past Reddit posts — including disparaging a Purple Heart recipient — and also had to cover up a tattoo of a Totenkopf, a notorious Nazi SS symbol, inked on his chest. *Josh Christenson*

Pol: SNAP feasts on system

Fast-food chains across America have raked in at least $524 million in taxpayer funds through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the past three years, according to estimates from a group of lawmakers.

While government-subsidized SNAP benefits are intended for at-home food and beverage consumption by low-income Americans, states like New York and California have expanded their Restaurant Meals Program to allow beneficiaries to indulge at places like Subway, McDonald’s, Burger King, Wendy’s, KFC and Dairy Queen.

“SNAP is intended to feed hungry families with nutritious food, but loopholes have funneled half a billion dollars to burgers and fries,” said US Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), who is leading a group of eight lawmakers urging a revisit of the program. *Ryan King*

‘Feral’ kids? ‘Just messy’

The mother accused of keeping 16 kids crammed in a filthy house of horrors denied that the children lived like “feral animals” — blaming the deplorable living conditions on “extreme poverty” and messy kids.

Elizabeth Siders, 33, was one of four adults arrested last month after her 16 children were found living in squalor in a tiny, trash- and feces-filled home in rural Ohio.

The children, who have never been to school, were living “like almost feral animals,” Ohio Attorney General Andy Wilson said — something the mom “absolutely disputes,” her attorney, Tommy Stolly, told Chris Cuomo on his Cuomo Crime Time podcast.

“The ones that were of appropriate age had social media pages. There’s evidence of that online,” Stolly said, denying the allegations that some of the kids could not speak or otherwise communicate. *Patrick Reilly*

Are you looking for sleeker, chic trackers?

HERE'S *WEAR* TO TURN

By McKENZIE BEARD

For years, wearables have done two things well: track every step, heartbeat and calorie burned — and make fashion-conscious consumers cringe.

That's finally changing. With nearly 60% of US adults sporting health trackers, shoppers increasingly expect them to look as good as they perform.

The result? A new generation of smarter, sleeker wearables that don't force customers to choose between style and stats:

Smart watches and bracelets

The days of looking like you've strapped a tiny computer to your wrist are over.

Just look at Withings' ScanWatch Nova Brilliant, a $600 tracker that disguises advanced sensors inside what looks like a luxury analog watch.

Available in silver and two-tone silver-and-gold finishes, it houses a sophisticated monitoring system that keeps tabs on things like body temperature, blood oxygen levels, sleep, activity and heart rate variability, all available in a companion app ($100 per year).

Meanwhile, the Fort Strength Training Wearable takes that minimalist approach even further. Developed by former Tesla engineers, the $349 bracelet forgoes a digital display entirely.

"A screen makes everything about the device: It needs charging, it wants your attention and it announces 'fitness tracker' from across the room," said Miranda Nover, co-founder of Fort.

The device uses motion and heart rate data to track more than 50 different strength-training exercises while also monitoring sleep, recovery and stress. All of that data is then synced to a companion app.

Smart earrings

While they aren't commercially available yet, the most discreet wearables about to hit the market are headed for your ears.

Leading the charge is Incora Health's 18-karat gold-over-titanium smart earrings, which look like classic studs but monitor your vital signs, hormones and fertility. Pricing hasn't been announced, though the company has opened a waitlist.

There's also the Lumia 2, billed as the world's first smart earring to continuously monitor blood flow to the head alongside metrics like sleep and body temperature.

"Blood flow to your head is a major driver behind how you feel. It drives your energy levels and mental clarity, as blood flow is your brain's fuel," explained Daniel Lee, CEO of Lumia Health.

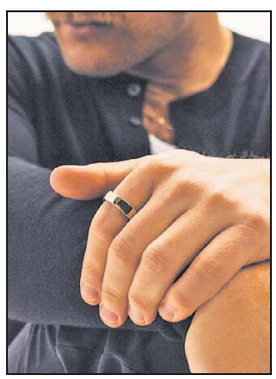
The titanium model starts at $249, with interchangeable earring fronts priced from $59 to $99. It can also be worn with your own push-back earrings.

Smart necklaces

Neck-worn health trackers aren't mainstream yet — but The90 Gem could help change that.

The $300 pendant, available in gold and silver, tracks real-time UV exposure, whether you're soaking up the sun outdoors or sitting near a window. Users can enter their skin type and sun habits for personalized burn and aging-risk estimates, along with sunscreen reminders and guidance about how much sun they need to reach their daily vitamin D targets.

"I love how wearable technology can make you more connected with your body," said Stacy Salvi, co-founder and CEO of The90. "But I wanted to have something that women could wear as jewelry that nobody would guess is a tracker."



Smart rings

Oura released its fifth-generation smart ring earlier this year, available in finishes like silver, gold, black and deep rose. Starting at $400, the band is 40% smaller than its predecessor and tracks more than 50 health metrics.

"The goal was to make the experience feel more effortless and more natural to wear all day, while also opening the category up to people who may have held back because other wearables felt too bulky, too obvious or too tech-forward," said Jason Russell, vice president of consumer software products at Oura.

theninetyofficial/Instagram; Incora Health/Facebook; Lumia; Withings; Fort; ouraring/Instagram

'Add'-Vance notice of baby

©splus

Vice President JD Vance and wife Usha have released the first photos of their family of six.

The second family posted three images online Friday featuring new baby Alec with the rest of his family.

"Enjoy these attempts at taking a decent family photo with four kids!" Usha wrote. "Thank you for all the good wishes as we settle into life as a family of six."

The photos were taken at the vice presidential residence at the Naval Observatory and show the Vance children along with the snoozing new arrival.

Alec Neel Vance was born July 19, becoming the first child born to a sitting vice president since 1870.

Emily Goodin

Dem 'primary' pick

SC votes 1st in '28, giving Kam a boost

By EMILY GOODIN

Democrats took a big step Friday toward making South Carolina the first state to hold its presidential primary in the 2028 cycle, potentially handing former Vice President Kamala Harris a big early advantage should she launch a third White House bid.

The Democratic National Committee's Rules and Bylaws panel gave the Palmetto State the nod to go first with 26 votes, followed by Nevada (19 votes) and longtime first-in-the-nation primary state New Hampshire (4 votes).

Friday's committee vote is expected to be approved next month by the full DNC, formalizing the calendar.

Democratic activists pushed hard in recent years for more diverse states to go first with their nominating contests rather than predominantly white Iowa and New Hampshire.

'Saved us'

Then-President Joe Biden successfully lobbied for South Carolina to lead the calendar in 2024 after his victory there four years earlier propelled him to the Democratic nomination.

The predominantly black Democratic primary electorate in that state is expected to favor Harris, the first woman of color to be vice president, should she run again.

"Black voters didn't just show up for this party in 2020. They saved us," Nebraska Democratic Party Chair Jane Kleeb said in remarks advocating for South Carolina. "They saved our entire country from Donald Trump."

Other advocates cited a recent Supreme Court decision weakening the 1965 Voting Rights Act as reason to elevate the Southern state's African-American electorate.

New Hampshire law requires the staging of a primary at least seven days before any other state. In 2024, New Hampshire held a primary 11 days before South Carolina, with Biden declining to appear on the ballot but still winning nearly 64% of the vote via a write-in campaign.

Outsized role

The New Hampshire Democratic Party held its own primary with only Biden as a candidate in April 2024, allowing its delegates to be seated at the national convention in Chicago that August.

"New Hampshire will follow its law and 106-year-old tradition of holding the first-in-the-nation presidential primary," New Hampshire Secretary of State David M. Scanlan said in a statement.

Without an incumbent or clear front-runner, the states that vote early will still have an outsized role in picking the 2028 Democratic nominee.

Earlier Friday, the committee selected six states to hold early primaries, with Michigan, New Mexico and Virginia joining the top three vote-getters. Michigan bested Iowa to be the Midwest's early state, ending Iowa's 56-year status as the first nominating contest.

Blue state grant nix

The Trump administration acknowledged in a court filing last week it whittled down a list of more than 600 clean-energy project grants by only terminating the ones in states that voted for former Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election.

The July 15 filing, made in a case challenging the Trump administration's cancellation of Biden-era grants, indicates the Department of Energy compiled a list of 624 grants to ax last fall before the White House Office of Management and Budget trimmed it in half, sparing projects in red states from losing federal funding.

The White House and the Department of Energy did not respond to The Post's requests for comment.

Victor Nava

Target No. 1

US can — *must* — take out Pickaxe nuke site

AT Pickaxe Mountain, Iran thinks it has built a nuclear fortress America can't destroy. President Trump can't afford to let that illusion survive another week. Fortunately, he has options.

Tehran has followed the same playbook for decades, secretly building underground nuclear sites that become the workhorses of its drive for the bomb.

Pickaxe appears to be the latest and potentially most dangerous. Back in 2020, Tehran's nuclear chief warned that workers were excavating the site for "a more modern, vaster, and inclusive building" — "working 24/7 to move all our sensitive work into the heart of this mountain."

Since then, Iran has spent six years carving Pickaxe into what it hopes will be an indestructible nuclear sanctuary. This is more than double the time it spent secretly building its enrichment plants at Fordow and Natanz before being caught.

Both those sites were already in "an advanced stage of construction" when inspections occurred. Inspectors still have never been to Pickaxe, and it appears unlikely they ever will.

via Reuters

Weak spot: A satellite view of a Pickaxe Mountain entrance to exploit.

JONATHAN RUHE

Satellite imagery suggests the facility may well be large enough to reconstitute many, possibly all, of Iran's core nuclear activities: centrifuge storage and production, uranium enrichment and stockpiling, even weaponization. This is helped by Iran's technological advances in recent years, which minimize its need for floor space, and time, to dash for a bomb.

A recent report says Iran might now be moving enrichment centrifuges to Pickaxe; it's been observed working on the site in recent months.

Trump himself warned this year that Iran was undertaking new activities at a site "protected by granite." Yet Pickaxe went untouched in Operations Midnight Hammer last year and Epic Fury in the spring.

Iran is banking on the site being impenetrable in a way that its other subterranean sites were not. Initial estimates suggested it could be even further underground than Fordow, Iran's most sensitive and deepest-buried enrichment plant at the time it was struck in Midnight Hammer.

Hence Iran's refusal to negotiate over the site. No new nuclear deal will bring to light, let alone shut down, this key node in the regime's undimmed nuclear ambitions.

Every month Pickaxe remains intact gives Tehran more time to move equipment, rebuild enrichment capacity and shorten the path back to a nuclear weapon. The president recognizes the urgency: "That's where the action is. We'll be hitting that area pretty soon and very heavily."

Now he needs to follow through. Targeting it would shatter Tehran's belief that one mountain can preserve its nuclear ambitions from American airpower.

Midnight Hammer showed that America's most powerful Massive Ordnance Penetrator bunker busters could severely damage even a deeply buried facility like Fordow. These weapons relied on smart tactics, precise targeting and fuses that enabled these weapons to drill sequentially through weak points, like ventilation shafts, before detonating to full effect.

That same operation also showed that blocking access to a site can be nearly as effective as burrowing into it. With Iran's highly enriched uranium sitting at Isfahan, in storage tunnels potentially beyond reach of bunker busters, salvos of low-flying Tomahawk cruise missiles were used to collapse the entrances and entrap the "nuclear dust" instead. In the more than a year since these attacks, Iran has poked around but not reentered the site.

Striking Pickaxe could combine elements of what worked best in last summer's operation, seeking both to maximize direct damage and minimize Iran's ability to access it afterward.

The site was designed, and construction started, long before Midnight Hammer revealed innovations enabling the MOPs to exploit new structural vulnerabilities. This would entail a mix of bunker busters, cruise missiles and possibly other munitions to attack Pickaxe at multiple points, and from multiple angles.

The facility's ventilation shafts and tunnel entrances are key. Israeli airstrikes on other Iranian nuclear sites show that disabling their power supplies can add to the effectiveness.

What comes after the strikes would be equally important. Working with Israel and its incredible intelligence capabilities, the United States would need to monitor the site closely and make clear it will conduct follow-on attacks if Iran tries to access it.

Trump has already upended many of Iran's beliefs about what American presidents will or won't do. Now he can confound the expectation that its nuclear program can survive US military action.

Jonathan Ruhe is a fellow at the Jewish Institute for National Security of America.

FAST TAKES

Liberal: The DSA's Demographic Sweet Spot

"The most Democratic voting group in America," notes Silver Bulletin's Nate Silver, is "voters with postgraduate degrees but lower-to-middle household incomes of $30K to $60K per year." And it is "very much also the sweet spot for the DSA," whose own "most recent member survey" revealed that "80 percent of members aged 25 or older had bachelor's degrees" while "45 percent had household incomes below $60,000 per year." (In contrast, "the most Republican voters in the country" are "high-earners who didn't attend college.") As "college-educated, mostly younger, mostly white progressives who are disillusioned by their economic opportunities," this group "typically uses 'post-material' cultural issues as their rallying points" — meaning "gay rights, trans rights, the environment, race relations and Israel/Palestine." They want "to feel as though they're part of some greater, more altruistic struggle against corrupt elites or injustice."

Wildfire watch: Trouble in *Two* Countries

Smoke from Canada's wildfires last week "shrouded cities from Minneapolis to New York in an apocalyptic haze" as "more than 3.9 million acres have burned this year," note Shawn Regan & Sean Speer at City Journal. Climate change is the typical "scapegoat" for wildfires, but President Trump "blamed Canada's "Willful Negligence" in failing to manage its forests" and "threatened to add the smoke's "incalculable" costs" to Canada's tariffs. In fact, "the charge of negligence" on wildfires applies to *both* countries as they neglect crucial work like "forest thinning, brush clearance, and prescribed burning." Canada has started to "recognize the problem," with *some* provinces doing more. "American forests need the same attention," but three prevention measures "await Senate action." Argh! "Managing these forests is better and cheaper than watching them burn."

From the right: Daylight Robbery

The House just passed "the Sunshine Protection Act of 2025," which "'protects' sunshine in the evening at the expense of sunshine in the morning" — with little "consideration of its consequences," contends Jeffrey H. Anderson at The Federalist. Daylight Saving Time works in the spring and summertime because "most Americans . . . have little desire to be awakened" at 4:30 a.m. But "applying Daylight Saving Time year-round would 'push winter sunrises to an absurdly late hour.'" For example, "the sun wouldn't rise until 9:12 a.m. in Grand Rapids, Michigan," on Christmas morning. And eliminating DST "would present the opposite problem." It's just "foolish" to apply DST in winter; let's hope "the Senate sees this more clearly."

Conservative: Court-Bashers' Supreme Ignorance

All too many Supreme Court critics, notes National Review's Dan McLaughlin, lack "any sort of rigor or perspective," and many "outright mislead their audiences"; this includes not just "overheated writers," but "prominent members of the judiciary." Indeed, the "poster boy for juvenile tantrum-throwing" is Todd Eddins, a lefty justice of Hawaii's Supreme Court, who just issued a judicial opinion rife with "hysteria" and a "purple-prosed series of ad hominems" denouncing the conservative Supreme Court justices that displayed his ignorance of their actual ideas. The left keeps trying to justify packing the court, but "there isn't a nonideological rationale for Court-packing." It's just "a desire for different results."

Todd Eddins

From the left: AP's Execrable Style Guide

The new AP style guide exemplifies a "drift away from neutral copy toward pre-loaded jargon" that has now shaped a "content landscape" "filled with 'soulless slop'," fumes Racket News' Matt Taibbi. For "any person who enjoys good writing," modern style guides are "a horror to read," embracing "bad writing habits like redundancy and imprecision" and offering "great heaping gobs of ideology in their visions of prose style." They advude writers "not to use a lot of excellent words like 'insane' and 'demented' and 'crazy' outside of quotes" just because they're "derogatory." A "clear-thinking person should say what he or she means," but politics in America has "devolved into a series of wars about word choice," pushing everyone to second-guess their own thoughts.

— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

NEW YORK POST
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Stop Pushing Hate, Zo

Mayor Mamdani is a "no room for hate" hypocrite: His obsessive Israel-bashing — and the ravings of his rabid pro-Palestinian besties — encourages antisemitic violence.

Tuesday night, he released an incendiary video repeating (again) a litany of lies about Israeli's war of self-defense against the Hamas terrorists and urging mass demonstrations when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu next comes to town.

Thursday, an attacker shouting "Allahu Akbar" stabbed two men — a Jew in a yarmulke and an Asian — on the Upper West Side; the mayor responded with noises about hate and mental illness. But it's not *generic* hate that encourages such *targeted* bloodshed, however unstable the perp might be: It's very *specific* incitement that *points* the violent at a *chosen* class of victims.

Mamdani needs to admit that his speech has consequences.

This town (and much of the nation) has seen a growing wave of Israel-bashing ever since Hamas invaded Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, to kill, rape and seize hostages. And antisemitic attacks have been soaring ever since.

Mamdani's "this is a city where we have no tolerance for hatred of any kind" blather is a transparent lie as long as he keeps up his incitement. If the mayor wants a more peaceful city, he needs to quit spouting hate; if he doesn't stop, then he *wants* the violence.

Publicly obsessing over Gaza or anything else in the Middle East has *nothing* to do with his office — which is more than just a day job, as he well knows.

Though even his day-job duties *should* make him hesitate before again calling for mass demonstrations during the coming UN General Assembly: Dealing with such pointless protests falls on the NYPD rank and file, who are already exhausted from the long hours of OT during the World Cup, the Knicks' playoff run and massive America 250 celebrations.

Quit fanning the flames, Mr. Mayor.

Just stop.

Parole Has Become a Joke

Last weekend brought *another* subway pushing, again showing that the city's leadership, from Mayor Mamdani on down, refuses to get obviously dangerous people off the streets.

On Saturday afternoon, Zaki Smith allegedly shoved a 70-year-old woman into the trackbed at the 7th Avenue/57th Street station. Thankfully, fellow straphangers got the victim back on the platform in time; she suffered only a gash to her head.

Smith's rap sheet includes multiple felony convictions; he was out on parole on Saturday despite at least three clear violations after his release last year. He'd been in prison for a 2022 assault on a *female guard at Rikers Island*, where he was already locked up pending trial for another charge: He threw the officer to the ground and beat her face with closed fists, causing significant injuries.

Yet after parole he was not thrown back in prison after one arrest for robbing an MTA employee, nor another for selling drugs, nor a third (in June) for stealing cleaning supplies from a Chelsea apartment building. Why bother pretending that "parole," "diversion," or "post-release supervision" mean anything?

As an assemblyman, Mayor Mamdani voted for the "Less is More Act," which reformed parole, making it harder to return reoffenders to prison, and easier for parolees to escape supervision. The mayor, who likes to attend religious feasts and watch soccer games at Rikers, seems less inclined to visit their victims in the hospital.

Zaki Smith had no business being on the streets, period. But it's not worth getting angry at him for being a violent predator.

Save your rage for the judges, prosecutors and legislators who decided that protecting criminals from the consequences of their own bad choices is more important than keeping the streets and subways safe.

A Gift to Hong Kong's Oppressors

Ugh: The Trump administration last week quietly weakened one of Washington's toughest tools for holding the oppressors of Hong Kong to account.

These are men and women who carried out Beijing's orders to crush the liberties that China had agreed to when it regained control of the island city in 1997; now Washington's decided to let them escape consequences for those despicable actions.

The Treasury Department called the decision a "technical modernization" but lets sanctions against dozens of Hong Kong officials lapse, when they'd been renewed each year since Trump imposed them back in 2020.

The move restores full access to US trade and transactions for nine individuals, including five active "security" officials. And it downgrades another 39 (including Carrie Lam, the pol in charging of crushing Hong Kong's freedoms) to a secondary list, giving them significant access to the global economy. China's Commerce Ministry is already celebrating it as a major US trade concession.

The damage is reversible: The State Department can update its Hong Kong Autonomy Act Section report to include the nine delisted officials and keep sanctions in place; the Office of Foreign Assets Control could put the other 39 back on the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list and issue warnings to international banks.

With Team Trump increasingly aware of China's meddling in US politics and elections and its assistance in letting Iran target our troops, it's a mystery why it let these sanctions drop. The administration should explain this move, or reverse it.

letters@nypost.com

Mamdani's Arrest Threat Proves He's Unfit To Lead

THE ISSUE: Mayor Mamdani backing down on his vow to arrest Benjamin Netanyahu in NYC.

•Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should sue Mayor Mamdani for defamation ("Zo's Threat to US Law," Jeffrey Lax, PostOpinion, July 23).

His claim that Netanyahu is a criminal is based on a declaration by a group not recognized by the United States. His constant public announcements calling Netanyahu a criminal amount to nothing but slander.

In a time of rampant antisemitism, Mamdani's rhetoric only exacerbates the situation. He should step aside and let someone who isn't ravaged by bias take over.

David Balsam, Brooklyn

•Mamdani's obsession with wanting Netanyahu arrested is obscene, provocative and extremely disturbing. His actions should disqualify him from being the mayor.

Robert Semel, Brooklyn

•Perhaps the best solution to Mamdani's remarks would be the following: When he arrives for the United Nations meeting, Netanyahu should receive official greetings from and be escorted by President Trump as a dramatic sign of continued support.

Mayor Mamdani

Of course, Mamdani wouldn't be a part of this. He might better use his time clearing the sidewalks of the encampments he has permitted.

Joseph Margolin
Valley Stream

•Mamdani's video claiming Netanyahu is a criminal ends with an official-looking plaque reading "The Office of the Mayor, New York City." He may have a right to his personal opinions, but what right does he have to give the impression it's the official position of the New York City government?

His claim that he's the mayor of all New Yorkers, regardless of their background or political views, is as phony as it gets. His views are more closely related to the most rabid antisemites.

Josh Greenberger
Manhattan

•Mamdani needs to be educated. The Israeli army has been declared the most benevolent army in the world. They make every effort not to harm civilians and give fair warning to evacuate before they attack. It is not their goal, unlike their enemies', to harm civilians.

It is the Arabs who are trained in early childhood to hate their Israeli neighbors. It is the Muslims who are trying to commit genocide Israelis.

Our mayor is an empty suit, bloated with hate for people who have done incredible things for mankind. Bibi is always welcome in New York!

Susan Green
Manhattan

Hochul's Data-Center Halt

THE ISSUE: Gov. Hochul's one-year moratorium on the construction on large new data centers.

•First, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez killed Amazon jobs in Queens, and now we have Gov. Hochul putting a moratorium on data centers, killing thousands of construction and IT jobs ("'Data'-driven Kat," July 19)

Her excuse is the drain on power and water. Does she know a golf course uses more water than a data center would? As far as electrical needs, companies can now build their own power plants on site and not draw power from local communities.

New York Democrats only know how to tax, spend and kill jobs.

Michael Greaney
Massapequa

•Hochul accurately highlights the impact of data centers. These facilities consume significant resources from local communities and — despite the common assumption that companies cover expenses — it's taxpayers who ultimately bear the costs.

However, Hochul's current opposition may be influenced by the election. Similar to the scenario with congestion tolls, it is probable that data centers will be developed if she resumes office. New Yorkers will then need to take action and stop all aspects of the data-center project.

Storm Destro
Bayonne, NJ

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Feminists vs. Moms

'Tradwives' in the crosshairs

BETHANY MANDEL

MODERN feminism has become remarkably good at celebrating women, as long as they're not too feminine.

In popular culture, it manifests in various ways. Women are celebrated for their professional achievements, encouraged to embrace only that form of success. Egg-freezing is promoted on podcasts and in magazine features, implicitly asserting a woman who delays motherhood to pursue her career is independent and empowered.

But a woman who delights in pregnancy and motherhood, or who stays home with her children or homeschools them — or one who simply believes men and women are different? At best, she's portrayed as brainwashed and oppressed, stripped of all agency. At worst, she's a tool of the patriarchy.

Take US soccer star Megan Rapinoe, who appeared on "The View" this week to denounce the women and girls fighting to eject biological men from women's sports.

"It's an attack on women in society," she declared. Rapinoe scoffed at the notion that women's sports protect women's physical safety, suggesting biological women and transgender males only differ in how they "look."

"They're using this as a wedge issue . . . You know, 'we don't want our little girls to be unsafe'," she added mockingly. I learned the reality of those differences the hard way.

My high school athletic department allowed boys' and girls' soccer teams to scrimmage — but banned it after I was knocked unconscious by a ball kicked by a male player. Long before biology became a culture-war talking point, it left me with a concussion.

Ironically, Rapinoe herself played on the US Women's National Team that famously lost 5-2 to FC Dallas' under-15 boys' squad. If the best women's soccer players in America can't physically compete with teenage boys, why is it hateful to acknowledge that reality when girls' safety is at stake?

The left's hostility doesn't stop at biology: It extends to the choices women make. This week, podcast host Jennifer Welch doubled down on her recent attacks on homeschooling mothers, calling homeschooling "a patriarchal step of the fascist project" and described mothers who homeschool their children as "dumber than a box of hot rocks."

She imagined them trapped at home with "piece of s--t, closet-case husbands," deliberately kept "dead-ass broke" so they'd lack the financial independence to leave.

Storytime with the Second Lady / YouTube

Showing: Second Lady Usha Vance makes no attempt to hide her pregnancy.

Yet homeschooling families, and there are millions of them, span every income level, political persuasion and educational philosophy. I should know: I'm a full-time working mother, homeschooling my oldest five children.

In truth, Welch's ignorant diatribe was less about homeschooling than about expressing contempt for the women who choose it. Just as Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Gov. Gavin Newsom's "First Partner," did when she lashed out at "tradwives" last month.

"I want to make sure those women have a voice . . . that isn't just about consumerism or being in service to men," she said in comments dripping with derision

In progressive feminism, every choice a woman makes is worthy of celebration — unless her choices are aligned with those that have defined womanhood for the vast majority of human history.

The same discomfort was on display in a recent New York Times feature examining the pregnancy style of women in President Trump's administration. The writer seemed perplexed women like Usha Vance, Katie Miller and Karoline Leavitt have embraced their pregnancies by wearing fitted clothing, accentuating their changing bodies. It was ostensibly a fashion story, but the theme was something else: bewilderment.

For decades, professional women were taught to minimize pregnancy, to treat it almost as an interruption to real life. Here were conservative women doing precisely the opposite — continuing to pursue ambitious careers in government while also displaying genuine joy at being visibly, unapologetically pregnant.

Progressives insist they're defending women's freedom, yet they increasingly reserve their harshest criticism for women who freely choose marriage, motherhood, homeschooling or large families. Those who argue men and women are biologically different are accused of sexism.

Those who embrace those differences by organizing their lives around their families are accused of internalized misogyny — or even fascism.

Rapinoe asks us to believe there are no meaningful physical differences between men and women. Welch and Newsom insist women who devote themselves to home and family must be brainwashed captives. Elite media outlets can't quite understand why successful women would celebrate pregnancy. Modern progressivism isn't defending the definition of womanhood; it has hollowed it out.

Bethany Mandel writes and podcasts at The Mom Wars.

DEMS' WORKING-CLASS BRICK WALL

THE last Democratic presidential candidate to appeal to the white working-class voter was Bill Clinton. He needed every one of them in his 1992 and 1996 victories — and still failed to win 50% of the popular vote. Since then, the Democratic brand has lost the white working-class vote in nearly every presidential election.

Yet this demographic still makes up 40% of the electorate and registers and votes at much higher rates than non-white groups.

Apparently, during the Biden-era influx of 10 million illegal aliens, Democrats really believed their own slogans about an "emerging Democratic majority" and confidently abandoned most efforts to recruit white working-class voters.

And today, working-class voters are being further alienated by the top-down takeover of the Democratic Party by hard-core leftists. Their agendas are boutique and have little appeal outside blue-city and blue-state echo chambers.

In the proverbial real world, voters have little patience with redefining what a woman is, biological men showering with teen girls or males masquerading as female athletes stealing girls' medals. Open borders, mass amnesties, defunding ICE and the police, and romanticizing illegal aliens are equally mystifying to the working class.

These voters are not stupid, as left-wing elites assume. They know the left, for all its bombast about oligarchs, millionaires and billionaires, is the party of precisely those groups — big-money interests from Hollywood, Silicon Valley, the legal profession, the media and Wall Street. So Democrats' unicorn hunt for their lost white working-class male voters is stymied not only by the off-putting democratic socialist agenda but also by the top-down, talk-down elitism of its emissaries.

VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

Whether it's the prep-schooled prima donna Jasmine Crockett spouting off about "white men," the lavish-living Zohran Mamdani threatening to go after "whiter neighborhoods," or multimillionaires Whoopi Goldberg and Sunny Hostin on "The View" lecturing on systemic racism, DEI has become a Democratic IED. It seems to detonate whenever a privileged "person of color" launches into the accustomed anti-white racial rant without "checking their own privilege" first.

The Democrats have three dilemmas:

- White working-class voters without college degrees still comprise nearly 40% of all registered voters; in 2024, they backed President Trump 66% to 34%.
- The mainstream Democratic agenda, tailored to affluent urban voters, alienates the white working class.
- The new socialists are most comfortable among wealthy leftists who talk down to the white working class.

Since Democrats need the white working class to regain power, what's the radical left to do? Invent a white working-class leftist. Democrats produced the unvetted madman Graham Platner, complete with a Nazi tattoo, a violently misogynistic past, antisemitic leanings and a phony working-class oysterman persona. That didn't work out well.

Then came James Talarico, the hard left's "good" evangelical Christian. Except he's also inauthentic: His past quotes seem obsessed with justice for gays and trans people being persecuted by the allegedly illiberal, wicked white working class he now courts.

Both followed the roly-poly, hyperactive "working man," Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, who was picked as the Democrats' vice presidential nominee simply because he could change the oil in his pickup and (supposedly) had a shotgun. Looking ahead to 2028, will the socialists try to recast the upper-middle-class Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez as a working-class sister at heart?

Ultimately, the question is not one of class, but of authenticity. The left consistently attacks Trump's "crass" tastes and appearance — his love of mixed martial arts, his comb-over, orange complexion — but not the authenticity of any of those preferences.

Trump's takeout meals from McDonald's are not staged but a long-standing habit. Billionaire Trump wears his customary blue suit, red tie and wingtips in every setting. He does not perch on straw bales wearing a John Deere cap, affect a regional accent à la Hillary Clinton, or don blue jeans to "bond" with farmers. He's as out of place walking an assembly line as he is genuinely appealing to those who work there.

Why? His agenda is tailored to working-class tastes.

The final paradox? The left needs to win a lot more white working-class Trump voters. Yet in their astroturf efforts, they ridicule Trump for his very tastes and the appeal that they try in vain to inauthentically emulate.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE® GRAMS

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A1	A1	E1	U1	K5	N1	W4	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A1	A1	I1	R1	G2	M3	D2		RACK 2
A1	E1	I1	B3	N1	D2	D2		RACK 3
E1	E1	I1	S1	D2	F4	M3	3rd Letter Double	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 195-205
BEST SCORE 278

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE	RACK 1 = 92	RACK 2 = 61	RACK 3 = 61	RACK 4 = 64	TOTAL 278
S1	E1	M3	D2	D2	
G2	K5	A1	E1	E1	
R1	A1	I1	E1	F4	
A1	W4	G2	D2	S1	
M3	A1	A1	N1	I1	
S1	N1	I1	A1	I1	
	U1	D2	B3	M3	

PAR SCORE 195-205

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 6 3
♡ A Q 10 3 2
◇ A 10 9
♣ 10 9 3

WEST
♠ 5
♡ 7 6 5
◇ 8 6 5 4 2
♣ 8 5 4 2

EAST
♠ K 7 4 2
♡ K J 9 8
◇ 7 3
♣ K 7 6

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 9 8
♡ 4
◇ K Q J
♣ A Q J

South	West	North	East
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♡	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ◇	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♡	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♡ 7

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Simple Saturday columns focus on basic technique and logical thinking.

Finesses should win half the time. Somehow, it seems as if they win less than that -- unless only an overtrick is at stake. Take only the finesses you must; take finesses that will gain if they win.

Against today's six spades, West leads a heart. Declarer takes dummy's ace; to finesse with the queen can gain nothing since he will still need to finesse in both trumps and clubs.

In which black suit should declarer finesse first?

Suppose South leads a trump to his queen, winning. He can go back to dummy's ace of diamonds and lead a second trump to his jack, but East still gets a trump trick. The trump finesse might have gained but didn't.

South's correct play is to finesse in clubs at Trick Two. If his queen wins, he will repeat the club finesse after leading the ace and a second trump. A winning club finesse will surely avoid a loser, but even if trump finesses win, South may lose a trump.

Word Force

CHANNELING

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 20** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Yesterday's word:
OUTRAGED

adore	gourd	guard	rated	tread
argue	grade	orate	rogue	urged
auger	grate	outer	rouge	
gated	great	outre	route	
gored	grout	raged	trade	

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOWERING CELLPHONES COSTS — Solution: 5 letters

P	E	T	C	A	R	T	N	O	C	O	N	A	L	P
A	A	T	N	O	I	T	O	M	O	R	P	V	U	L
C	U	P	A	D	I	R	E	D	U	C	E	O	N	O
O	L	T	E	I	U	N	E	T	F	A	M	I	L	Y
M	E	R	O	R	T	C	T	X	L	L	A	C	O	A
P	C	E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	E	S	I	E	C	L
E	N	S	A	I	A	E	G	T	R	D	N	S	K	T
T	A	S	N	R	C	Y	S	E	I	N	T	E	E	Y
I	C	E	E	I	E	E	Ⓓ	S	N	E	E	T	D	T
T	S	A	V	E	G	B	C	Ⓔ	G	C	N	T	I	N
O	D	R	A	C	F	O	A	I	Ⓐ	A	A	I	A	A
R	E	N	O	P	U	O	C	T	R	Ⓛ	N	N	P	R
S	D	O	W	N	G	R	A	D	E	P	C	G	E	R
E	D	E	T	I	M	I	L	N	U	E	E	S	R	A
P	U	O	R	G	N	I	M	A	E	R	T	S	P	W

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Autopay, Call, Cancel, Card, Competitors, Coupon, Credit, Deal, Decline, Discount, Downgrade, Employees, Family, Fees, Group, Internet, Loyalty, Maintenance, Negotiate, No Contract, Paperless, Plan, Prepaid, Price, Promotion, Rebate, Reduce, Replace, Ring, Save, Service, Settings, Streaming, Text, Unlimited, Unlocked, Voice, Warranty

Yesterday's Answer: Jukebox

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

www.SudokuWiki.org

PLAY MORE GAMES!

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 30

© Syndicated Puzzles

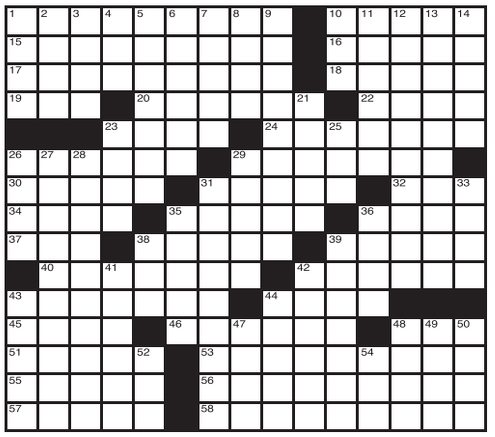
Very Easy #7,350

1						6	9	
	9	6	1		7	5	2	
	4			8			3	
				7	4			1
8	3						4	6
4			9	3				
	5			6			1	
	6	1	4		2	7	8	
	8	3						5

Difficult #7,140

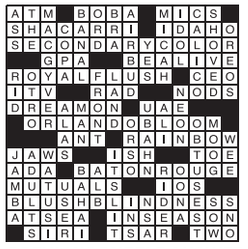
					5			
9					4		8	
3			1		2	4		5
					6		4	
8		9		4		6		3
	6		7					
2		3	4		9			7
	5		6					1
			8					

Quick Crossword



Across
1 "Who's interested?"
10 Saw
15 "Do I know you?"
16 Historic site in Jordan known as the Rose City
17 Eggs-cellent breakfast spot
18 "Door's open!"
19 "You bet!"
20 Pinch-hit
22 Next
23 Hardly pusillanimous
24 Bears named for an Alaskan archipelago
26 Call it a day
29 People who pay flat rates?
30 Wistful words
31 Went to court?
32 One who loves ewe very much
34 Migrators in the Maasai Mara's Great Migration
35 Brook swimmer
36 Brand of shapewear
37 Brief alarm
38 Essence
39 Test versions
40 Takes back
42 "You bet!"
43 Ouster
44 One thing after another
45 Campus building
46 Connecticut governor Ned
48 Rugby ball prop
51 Taco truck option
53 Places to break some records?
55 Hammer and anvil, for two
56 "I wish wearing flat-irons on our heads would keep us from ___": "Little Women"
57 IV part
58 "No prob"

Down
1 "Hello, sailor!"
2 Appellation
3 ___ Rocher cosmetics
4 Office no.
5 "Way cool!"
6 Boiling point?
7 War zone journalist
8 Bring in
9 Go down swinging, perhaps
10 Mimic
11 Tooth component
12 "If we stayed on such a road ... "
13 Dish with feta and Kalamatas
14 Brings in
21 Largish combo
23 Catchy tunes, informally
25 Pops
26 Some play dates?
27 "Just wondering"
28 Leaves for one's residence?
29 Pluto and others
31 Plain to see
33 Soup often served with gyoza
35 Like some languages
36 Muppet who loves pigeons
38 Faux finish?
39 Way to travel with class?
41 "You're even farther now ... "
42 Muscular
43 Abu ___
44 Screen icons
47 "Matilda" star Wilson
48 Caesar wrap?
49 Cassowary kin
50 Award for top plays?
52 Butterfield of "Sex Education"
54 Number worn by Oscar Robertson



PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Marts fizzle

Stocks drifted to a mixed finish on Wall Street Friday as oil prices slipped for the first time in a week. Investors continued to sell chip stocks on worries about AI spending. The three major indexes ended with weekly losses.

SpaceX low

Shares of Elon Musk's SpaceX closed at a record low of $115.07, down 2.7%. SpaceX has lost more than $1 trillion in value from its peak.

TikTok flawed

TikTok was charged with breaching European Union online-content rules due to design features that could expose children to predators or cyberbullying, putting the company at risk of hefty fines.

Pain reliever

The Food and Drug Administration approved a nonprescription, fixed-dose pill that combines Kenvue's Tylenol with the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug naproxen for up to 12 hours of pain relief.

Bronco recall

Ford recalled more than half a million Broncos, model years 2021-2026, because a wiring harness in the engine compartment can short-circuit and increase the risk of fire.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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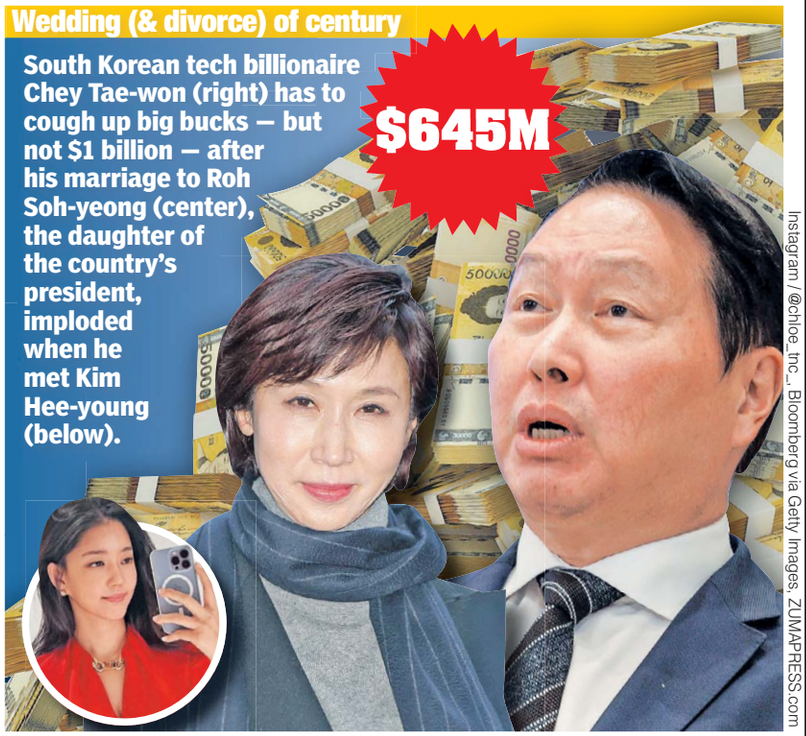
Wedding (& divorce) of century



South Korean tech billionaire Chey Tae-won (right) has to cough up big bucks — but not $1 billion — after his marriage to Roh Soh-yeong (center), the daughter of the country's president, imploded when he met Kim Hee-young (below).

Instagram/@chloe_tnc_, Bloomberg via Getty Images, ZUMAPRESS.com

'Poor' ex gets mere $645M

By ARIEL ZILBER

A South Korean AI billionaire who blew up his marriage by fathering a child with another woman won't have to fork over the nearly $1 billion his ex-wife had sought — after a court instead ordered him to pay roughly $645 million in cash on Friday.

The ruling brings a possible end to South Korea's so-called "divorce of the century," capping a decade-long legal saga that mixed a billionaire's affair, a former president's family, alleged slush-fund money and one of Asia's hottest artificial-intelligence fortunes.

Chey Tae-won, the 65-year-old chairman of South Korea's SK Group, built much of his fortune through the AI boom as shares of memory-chip giant SK Hynix — a key supplier to Nvidia — soared in recent years.

Long, sordid story

His wealth, estimated at roughly $5 billion before Friday's ruling, had become the centerpiece of the courtroom fight after his ex-wife, Roh Soh-yeong, demanded half his fortune.

Instead, the appeals court awarded Roh about one-third of the wealth calculated by the judges, valuing Chey's holdings before SK's shares exploded during the AI frenzy.

Chey's lawyers said they were reviewing the ruling and did not rule out another appeal to South Korea's Supreme Court.

The bitter divorce battle traces back to a stunning public confession in 2015.

In a three-page letter published by a South Korean newspaper, Chey announced that he wanted what he called a "clean end" to his 27-year marriage, revealing he had fallen in love with Kim Hee-young and fathered a child with her.

The revelation shattered a marriage that had once been celebrated as South Korea's "marriage of the century."

Chey and Roh, the daughter of former South Korean President Roh Tae-woo, married at the presidential Blue House in 1988 just months after her father took office.

THAT'S A HALT, FOLKS!

Paramount 1-yr. pause

By ALEXANDRA STEIGRAD

Paramount Skydance said Friday that it agreed to pause its merger with Warner Bros. Discovery until next June at the latest while a judge considers a lawsuit from state attorneys general who sued to block the $110 billion deal.

The delay is the latest twist in the megadeal, which could reshape Hollywood by merging Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros. Studios.

In a legal filing, Paramount and a group of state attorneys general — who had sued the media giant over antitrust concerns — said they had reached an agreement to freeze the merger while the case winds its way through the courts, extending a shorter pause imposed this week by a federal judge in California.

The merger deal expires on June 4, 2027, if the deal hasn't closed by that date.

Big changes

"Today's agreement is a significant win because the result is exactly what we have sought from the outset: a direct path to a trial based on the evidence," said a Paramount spokesperson.

"This is the fastest and clearest way to prove that this transaction is good for competition, good for consumers, and good for creators, a conclusion dozens of competition authorities around the world have already reached.

Plaintiffs' market definitions bear no relationship to the realities of today's marketplace and cannot withstand scrutiny. We look forward to proving our case at trial."

The deal would not only unite movie studios Paramount and Warner Bros, but also bring together streaming services Paramount+ and HBO Max, as well as networks CBS and CNN.

The standstill could be expensive for Paramount.

The David Ellison-led company agreed to pay Warner Bros. Discovery shareholders a fee of $650 million every quarter the deal doesn't close beginning in October.

The group of 12 states led by California, includes New York, Connecticut, Oregon and Arizona. In a statement, New York Attorney General Letitia James called the halt a "crucial victory."

"From the workers and artists who bring stories to life to the families who buy tickets at the box office, Paramount's illegal takeover of Warner Bros. is a bad deal for all those who count on a competitive entertainment industry," James said.

Shares of Paramount Skydance fell just over 3% to $8.21 on Friday. Shares of Warner Bros. Discovery slid just under 1% to $25.77.

Ban on 'harass glasses' vid

Instagram CEO Adam Mosseri has had it with the surge of obnoxious "harassing" videos shot using Meta's "pervert glasses" that are flooding the social media platform — causing the executive to ban the content.

"If you're posting content that is taking advantage of people and harassing them, like a lot of these pickup-line kind of videos that we've heard of and seen, then we're going to take the content down," Mosseri said in response to a question on his Instagram stories last week.

"We don't want people to be surreptitiously taking videos of other people and harassing them and then posting them on our platform. So we're trying to fight that every way we can."

Mark Zuckerberg's Meta — which owns Instagram — released its so-called smart glasses (right) last fall that can record video and celebrities like Kylie Jenner have jumped on board to promote them — generating swift backlash online from people describing them as "dystopian."

Users quickly began hacking or covering up the tiny light that signals when the glasses are recording in order to surreptitiously film people, earning them the moniker "pervert glasses."

The latest Ray-Ban Meta glasses start at $379.

Marc Vartabedian

Put a 'Spell' on you

UK fantasy store brings its spirit to Times Sq.

By STEVE CUOZZO

"The Deuce" was losing its juice — but a giant new fun-and-fantasy store from England is the latest retailer aiming to put the magic back in the once notorious but now revitalized West 42nd Street block between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

House of Spells, a UK-based seller of toys and collectibles licensed from fantasy franchises such as "Harry Potter," "Lord of the Rings" and "Game of Thrones," will open its doors at 234 W. 42nd St. next Wednesday. Illusionist Jamie Allan, star of "Amaze" on stage, will join local elected officials and Broadway luminaries to launch the 20,000-square-foot emporium.

The colorful, two-level venue is full of dragons, superheroes, and "immersive" features for kids and adults. Built out for about $5 million, not including the cost of its lease, House of Spells couldn't come at a better time to a block that lost some of its buzz since B.B. King's Blues Club closed in 2018.

It's the second 20,000-square-foot debut on the block's south side in the past year. An "immersive tech emporium" called tm:rw replaced the giant former McDonald's at 220 W. 42nd St. last July, featuring everything from a cotton-candy robot to an actual Formula 1 show car.

Times Square business advocates and nearby merchants say House of Spells will accelerate the return of the old spark — and crowds.

"Not since the British invasion of The Beatles, The Kinks and The Who have I been this excited. House of Spells will bring new energy and magic to The Deuce and, I'm certain, new crowds," crowed Times Square Alliance President Tom Harris.

Jaime Vidal, president of House of Spells' US operations, called the choice of location for its first US store a "no-brainer," citing Times Square's "energy, excitement and magic. There's no shortage of magical wonders for fans to discover."

"The Deuce" (a local nickname for 42nd Street around Times Square), once Midtown's creepiest and most dangerous block, gave its name to an HBO series set during the crime-and-porn-infested 1970s. It's nothing like that today, having been revitalized as part of the overall, family-friendly Times Square area upgrade that many called a "Disneyfication."

Spruce 'The Deuce'

UK fantasy toy and collectible seller "House of Spells" is opening a huge store — its first in the US — on West 42nd Street Wednesday, featuring collectibles from fantasy franchises such as "Harry Potter," "Lord of the Rings" and "Game of Thrones."

Steve Cuozzo (2)

Miami home $urge

Miami has overtaken New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area as the nation's hottest market for $30 million-plus homes, as wealthy buyers continue pouring into low-tax Florida.

A total of 24 single-family homes and condominiums in Miami-Dade County sold for more than $30 million during the first six months of 2026 — nearly double the number from the same period a year earlier, according to Bloomberg News, which cited real estate analytics firm Analytics Miami.

New York recorded 17 residential sales of more than $30 million during the first half of 2026, according to Olshan Realty's luxury market report cited by Bloomberg, while Miami-Dade logged 24.

There were 9 such transactions in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Luxury real estate broker and "Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles" star Josh Flagg said demand remains strong even during what's typically South Florida's quietest season.

"I have my house in Miami on the market right now for $10 million on North Bay Road," Flagg told The Post.

"We're getting showings every single day, which says a lot considering it's summertime and most people are not in town or buying real estate in Florida during the summer." *Ariel Zilber*

Spenders boost Amex

American Express posted higher sales and profit in the second quarter, thanks to higher spending among its credit-card members.

The credit-card company's sales rose 10% to $19.64 billion, but came in below Wall Street estimates of $19.7 billion. Shares fell 4% Friday, as investors were disappointed by the slight miss.

Card members spent 9% more in the second quarter, the highest growth rate in three years, Amex said. Spending on restaurants, the company's biggest category, rose 10% and travel bookings jumped 22%.

Amex has made efforts in recent years to bring in consumers with higher incomes and better credit scores. It refreshed its Platinum card last year, which has one of the highest annual fees of any Amex card. *Dow Jones*

Suit over new tariffs

Two small businesses on Friday challenged President Trump's latest round of tariffs on goods from 60 trading partners, saying that the new policy, like most of Trump's previous tariffs, went beyond the president's authority to tax imports.

The lawsuit, filed in the US Court of International Trade in New York, argues that the new tariffs require more detailed country-specific findings about unfair trade practices to be legally justified.

The two small businesses, backed by a nonprofit legal group that successfully sued over previous rounds of tariffs, argued that the president is trying to re-impose tariffs that were already ruled illegal by the US Supreme Court.

The administration on Friday imposed new tariffs of 10% to 12.5%. The White House didn't respond for comment. *Reuters*

Home sales up just a bit

Sales of new single-family homes snapped a two-month skid in June, but higher mortgage rates and affordability challenges restrained the rebound and continue to sideline potential buyers from the housing market.

New home sales rose 1.6% to a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 628,000 units last month from May's upwardly revised pace, the Commerce Department said Friday.

The median new house price of $398,300 in June was 2.7% lower than a year earlier. *Reuters*

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NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My sister Is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. She is suffering on dialysis, which will eventually end her life; blood type is O+. Average wait time in NY 1s 7 years. If anyone wants to help by being a kidney donor, Please email me at s imoner451@outlook .com. God bless you.

LEGAL NOTICES

BRONX COUNTY
NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF A LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that a license, serial number NA-0370-25-138654 for an On-Premises Liquor License has been applied for by Palace Club Corp. to sell liquor, beer, wine, and cider at an establishment at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 608 E. Fordham Rd., 2nd Floor, Bronx, N.Y. 10458 for on-premises consumption. Palace Club Corp.

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Golf

LIV Golf United Kingdom
At JCB Golf and Country Club; Rocester, England; Purse: $20M; Yardage: 7,332; Par: 72; Second Round

Lucas Herbert	61-66-127	-17
Bryson DeChambeau	64-67-131	-13
Tyrrell Hatton	66-68-134	-10
Harold Varner III	66-69-135	-9
Byeong-Hun An	67-68-135	-9
Peter Uihlein	69-67-136	-8
Dean Burmester	70-66-136	-8
Marc Leishman	68-68-136	-8
Cameron Smith	69-67-136	-8
Caleb Surratt	68-69-137	-7
Anirban Lahiri	68-69-137	-7
Adrian Meronk	70-68-138	-6
Richard T. Lee	67-71-138	-6
Carlos Ortiz	70-68-138	-6
Charles Howell III	68-70-138	-6
Abraham Ancer	68-70-138	-6
Bjoern Hellgren	68-71-139	-5
Thomas Pieters	71-68-139	-5
Laurie Canter	73-66-139	-5
Ian Poulter	68-71-139	-5
Scott Vincent	68-71-139	-5
Travis Smyth	71-69-140	-4
Jose Luis Ballester	72-69-141	-3
Lee Westwood	71-70-141	-3
Martin Vorster	72-70-142	-2
Charl Schwartzel	73-69-142	-2
Martin Kaymer	72-70-142	-2
Dustin Johnson	73-69-142	-2
David Puig	73-69-142	-2
Paul Casey	73-69-142	-2
Matthew Wolff	72-71-143	-1
Anthony Kim	73-70-143	-1
Tom McKibbin	73-70-143	-1
Luis Masaveu	68-75-143	-1
Jon Rahm	73-70-143	-1
Richard Bland	71-73-144	E
Graeme McDowell	72-72-144	E
Cameron Tringale	74-70-144	E
Victor Perez	74-70-144	E
Branden Grace	71-73-144	E
Bubba Watson	71-73-144	E

PGA Tour- 3M Open
At TPC Twin Cities; Blaine, Minn.; Purse: $8.8 million; Yardage: 7,431; Par: 71
Second Round

Michael Kim	69-59	128	-14
Emiliano Grillo	64-67	131	-11
Ben Kohles	62-69	131	-11
Chandler Phillips	66-65	131	-11
Jackson Koivun	64-68	132	-10
Troy Merritt	66-66	132	-10
Zac Blair	68-65	133	-9
Brian Harman	69-64	133	-9
Billy Horschel	67-66	133	-9
Michael Brennan	65-69	134	-8
Denny McCarthy	66-68	134	-8
Jesper Svensson	65-69	134	-8
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	68-67	135	-7
Chandler Blanchet	67-68	135	-7
Lucas Glover	65-70	135	-7
Lee Hodges	68-67	135	-7
Hideki Matsuyama	70-65	135	-7
Kevin Roy	65-70	135	-7
Scottie Scheffler	65-70	135	-7
Austin Smotherman	68-67	135	-7
Kevin Streelman	67-68	135	-7
Gary Woodland	64-71	135	-7
Kevin Yu	69-66	135	-7
Muzzy Donohue	73-63	136	-6
Zecheng Dou	67-69	136	-6
Austin Eckroat	69-67	136	-6
Hao-Tong Li	68-68	136	-6
Seamus Power	68-68	136	-6
Davis Thompson	68-68	136	-6
Vince Whaley	67-69	136	-6
Davis Chatfield	69-68	137	-5
Beau Hossler	69-68	137	-5
Casey Jarvis	71-66	137	-5
Jeffrey Kang	67-70	137	-5
Tom Kim	68-69	137	-5
Kurt Kitayama	68-69	137	-5
Maverick McNealy	71-66	137	-5
Keith Mitchell	68-69	137	-5
Pontus Nyholm	68-69	137	-5
Sam Stevens	68-69	137	-5

Champions Tour- ISPS HANDA Senior Open
At Kings Course; Auchterarder, United Kingdom; Purse: $2.9 million; Yardage: 6,859; Par: 70
Second Round

Cameron Percy	63-68	131	-9
Jerry Kelly	66-68	134	-6
Markus Brier	67-69	136	-4
Ernie Els	65-71	136	-4
Henrik Stenson	68-68	136	-4
Lionel Alexandre	64-73	137	-3
Matt Gogel	68-69	137	-3
Peter Baker	69-69	138	-2
Alex Cejka	68-70	138	-2
Darren Fichardt	70-68	138	-2
Tom Pernice	65-73	138	-2
Tag Ridings	66-72	138	-2
Michael Wright	66-72	138	-2
Steve Allan	69-70	139	-1
Ryan Armour	67-72	139	-1
Matthew Cort	72-67	139	-1

LPGA Tour- ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open
At Dundonald Links; Troon, United Kingdom; Purse: $2 million; Yardage: 6,543; Par: 72
Second Round

Jenny Shin	66-67	133	-11
Esther Henseleit	70-68	138	-6
A Lim Kim	67-72	139	-5
Pajaree Anannarukarn	71-69	140	-4
Lauren Coughlin	66-74	140	-4
Erika Hara	70-70	140	-4
Patty Tavatanakit	71-69	140	-4

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	17	10	.630	–
Atlanta	16	10	.615	½
Liberty	15	12	.556	2
Washington	14	12	.538	2½
Toronto	10	16	.385	6½
Chicago	9	18	.333	8
Connecticut	7	20	.259	10

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	22	6	.786	–
Golden State	19	8	.704	2½
Las Vegas	18	8	.692	3
Dallas	18	9	.667	3½
Portland	11	16	.407	10½
Los Angeles	10	16	.385	11
Phoenix	10	18	.357	12
Seattle	6	23	.207	16½

Friday
No games scheduled.

Saturday

2026 All-Star Game
Team Coop vs Team Spoon, 8:30pm, Chicago

Sunday
No games scheduled.

Monday
No games scheduled.

Tuesday
Liberty at Los Angeles, 10pm
Connecticut at Washington, 7:30pm
Toronto at Minnesota, 8pm
Indiana at Seattle, 9:30pm
Portland at Las Vegas, 10pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Gotham FC	9	3	4	31	21	12
Washington	9	3	3	30	24	12
San Diego	9	5	2	29	23	17
Portland	8	5	4	28	27	20
Utah Royals FC	8	4	3	27	22	16
Kansas City	8	6	1	25	23	22
Orlando	7	8	2	23	22	21
Angel City	7	6	1	22	22	14
North Carolina	6	5	3	21	20	19
Denver Summit FC	5	5	4	19	21	19
Houston	5	7	4	19	19	24
Bay FC	5	7	3	18	16	20
Seattle	5	7	2	17	15	19
Boston Legacy FC	4	8	4	16	17	23
Chicago	4	12	0	12	8	31
Louisville	2	10	2	8	16	27

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Friday
Houston 1, Bay FC 0
Orlando 1, Chicago 0
Gotham FC 2, Portland 2, tie
Saturday
Kansas City at Boston Legacy FC, 5pm
Utah Royals FC at North Carolina, 7:45pm
Sunday
Seattle at San Diego, 5pm
Denver Summit FC at Washington, 7pm
Louisville at Angel City, 9pm
Wednesday
Louisville at Kansas City, 8pm
Washington at Utah Royals FC, 9pm
Gotham FC at Bay FC, 10pm
Friday, July 31
Orlando at North Carolina, 8pm
Saturday, August 1
Chicago at Louisville, 4pm
Angel City at Kansas City, 6:30pm
Gotham FC at Houston, 8pm
Seattle at Bay FC, 8:45pm
Sunday, August 2
San Diego at Washington, 4pm
Portland at Utah Royals FC, 7pm
Boston Legacy FC at Denver Summit FC, 9pm
Wednesday, August 5
North Carolina at Denver Summit FC, 10pm

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	12	1	3	39	33	11
Inter Miami CF	10	2	4	34	42	30
Chicago	8	5	2	26	29	19
New England	8	5	2	26	22	18
Cincinnati	6	5	5	23	40	40
NYCFC	6	6	4	22	27	22
Charlotte FC	6	6	4	22	26	25
Red Bulls	6	6	4	22	26	35
D.C. United	4	5	7	19	22	26
Orlando City	5	9	2	17	27	44
Columbus	4	8	4	16	22	25
Toronto FC	3	6	7	16	22	29
CF Montréal	4	9	3	15	22	32
Atlanta	3	10	3	12	16	26
Philadelphia	2	10	4	10	21	31

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	3	2	32	37	16
San Jose	10	4	2	32	34	19
Los Angeles FC	9	5	3	30	30	18
Real Salt Lake	8	5	2	26	27	22
FC Dallas	7	4	5	26	32	24
Seattle FC	7	5	3	24	19	19
Houston	7	6	2	23	20	24
St Louis City	6	6	4	22	22	23
Minn. United	6	6	4	22	19	24
LA Galaxy	5	7	5	20	23	28
Colorado	6	9	1	19	26	24
Portland	5	8	3	18	29	31
San Diego FC	4	7	5	17	30	28
Austin FC	4	7	5	17	22	32
Sporting K.C.	4	10	2	14	18	40

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday
Charlotte FC at **Red Bulls**, 6:30pm
Chicago at **NYCFC**, 7:30pm
Cincinnati at Columbus, 7:15pm
Toronto FC at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Miami at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Atlanta at New England, 7:30pm
Nashville at Orlando City, 7:30pm
Seattle FC at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Austin FC at Houston, 8:30pm
Vancouver at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Colorado at St Louis City, 8:30pm
FC Dallas at San Diego FC, 9:30pm
Sporting K.C. at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
Salt Lake at Portland, 10:30pm
LA Galaxy at San Jose, 10:30pm

Friday
Toronto FC at **NYCFC**, 7:30pm

Saturday, August 1
Orlando City at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm
San Jose at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Nashville at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Columbus at Miami, 7:30pm
New England at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Los Angeles FC at Vancouver, 7:30pm
Charlotte FC at Chicago, 8:30pm
Houston at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm
San Diego FC at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Salt Lake at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Austin FC at Colorado, 9:30pm
FC Dallas at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
Seattle FC at Portland, 10:30pm

Formula One

Formula One Points Leaders
Through Sunday
1. Andrea Kimi Antonelli, 204.
2. Lewis Hamilton, 159.
3. George Russell, 154.
4. Charles Leclerc, 126.
5. Lando Norris, 103.
6. Oscar Piastri, 92.
7. Max Verstappen, 91.
8. Isack Hadjar, 60.
9. Pierre Gasly, 42.
10. Liam Lawson, 39.

CC to welcome ex-teammates into HOF club

By GRACE McCARRON

COOPERSTOWN — On Sunday, Cooperstown will welcome Andruw Jones, Jeff Kent and Carlos Beltrán into the Baseball Hall of Fame, joining 281 former major leaguers to receive the induction honor.

New York Yankees southpaw and 2025 Hall of Fame inductee CC Sabathia played multiple seasons with Jones and Beltrán in The Bronx, and pitched against Kent many times during his 19 seasons in the big leagues.

"obviously, great players," sabathia said at a hall of fame signing event friday. "you know hall of fame-caliber players when you're playing against them."

Sabathia especially emphasized Jones' impact on his career early on. The two were teammates in 2011 and 2012 during Jones's short stint with the Yankees at the end of his MLB career.

Now, Jones joins his ex-teammate in the Hall after nine years on the ballot.

"Andruw is someone, I always tell the story, he was an inspiration to me," Sabathia said. "Having a chance to watch him in the '96 World Series, I was 16 years old. He was 18, and in my mind, I'm thinking I'm going to be in the big leagues as a teenager, just watching him. So that inspiration I got from him was great, and I'm just excited that he's here."

Sabathia was highly complimentary of Beltrán, his teammate from 2014 to 2016, as well.

" 'Los is probably one of the smartest baseball players I ever played with. Great teammate, very thoughtful, so just excited that both of them are here in Cooperstown, and they definitely deserve it," Sabathia said.

Now a year into his membership of the game's greatest brotherhood, Sabathia noted the relationships he has gotten to build through his career and beyond.

"It's a brotherhood, so understanding that you know the guys before you are looking out for you. ... Reggie [Jackson] gave me a bunch of advice," Sabathia said. "I can name a bunch of guys, but just having a chance to be a part of this brotherhood ... if you're in it long enough, you're going to get a lot of advice.

"To be able to come up [to Cooperstown] and really enjoy being around the guys ... just the whole weekend is great. It's exciting."

Newest Sixer a long shot for NBA MVP

By SEAN TREPPEDI

LeBron James' move to the 76ers has sportsbooks all scattered on his NBA MVP outlook.

Following his announcement on Friday that he's headed to Philadelphia on a two-year, $8 million deal, James' longest odds to win the award are priced at 750/1 at FanDuel, while he's available for as short as 200/1 at bet365.

James, 41, will converge with stars Joel Embiid, Tyrese Maxey and new blockbuster acquisition Jaylen Brown to help try to end a 43-year championship drought in Philadelphia.

All three of those players are priced ahead of James in the MVP market, with Brown at 40/1, Maxey at 50/1 and Embiid — the only of the three who's won it before — at 150/1.

He's expected to ease the offensive burden on the younger stars and serve as a facilitator.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	60	43	.583	—	—	4-6	W-1	36-15	24-28
Yankees	58	45	.563	2	+5	7-3	W-2	26-23	32-22
Boston	53	49	.520	6½	+½	9-1	W-1	24-28	29-21
Baltimore	50	54	.481	10½	3½	7-3	L-1	28-26	22-28
Toronto	47	57	.452	13½	6½	2-8	L-1	26-30	21-27

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	54	48	.529	—	—	7-3	L-1	31-18	23-30
Cleveland	54	51	.514	1½	—	5-5	L-3	27-26	27-25
Minnesota	51	54	.486	4½	3	5-5	L-1	26-26	25-28
Detroit	50	54	.481	5	3½	6-4	W-3	29-23	21-31
Kansas City	43	62	.410	12½	11	5-5	L-2	26-27	17-35

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Texas	52	51	.505	—	—	5-5	W-1	26-24	26-27
Seattle	51	53	.490	1½	2½	4-6	L-3	30-23	21-30
Houston	51	54	.486	2	3	5-5	W-4	26-27	25-27
Athletics	44	59	.427	8	9	3-7	W-1	20-30	24-29
Los Angeles	41	63	.394	11½	12½	4-6	L-2	24-28	17-35

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Yankees 1, Philadelphia 0
Detroit 2, Kansas City 1
Tampa Bay 11, Cleveland 3
San Francisco 7, L.A. Angels 6, 10 inn.
Atlanta 7, Baltimore 6, 10 inn.
Boston 6, Toronto 4
Athletics 2, Minnesota 0
Texas 5, Seattle 4
Houston 9, White Sox 5

Saturday

Yankees at Philadelphia, 6:05
Kansas City at Detroit, 1:10
L.A. Angels at San Francisco, 4:05
Toronto at Boston, 4:10
Cleveland at Tampa Bay, 6:10
Atlanta at Baltimore, 7:05
Athletics at Minnesota, 7:10
Houston at White Sox, 7:10
Seattle at Texas, 7:15

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	61	42	.592	—	—	7-3	W-3	32-20	29-22
Philadelphia	56	48	.538	5½	+1	4-6	L-3	27-26	29-22
Miami	52	52	.500	9½	3	0-10	L-10	31-21	21-31
Washington	52	52	.500	9½	3	4-6	L-1	20-32	32-20
Mets	43	61	.413	18½	12	3-7	L-2	21-29	22-32

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	64	39	.621	—	—	5-5	L-1	34-20	30-19
Chicago	58	45	.563	6	+3½	6-4	W-1	30-22	28-23
Pittsburgh	53	51	.510	11½	2	6-4	L-2	27-25	26-26
St. Louis	52	51	.505	12	2½	3-7	L-2	26-28	26-23
Cincinnati	48	54	.471	15½	6	6-4	W-3	22-28	26-26

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	66	38	.635	—	—	5-5	W-3	31-19	35-19
Arizona	55	49	.529	11	—	8-2	W-4	31-22	24-27
San Diego	51	53	.490	15	4	5-5	W-1	27-24	24-29
San Francisco	43	60	.417	22½	11½	4-6	W-1	23-25	20-35
Colorado	42	63	.400	24½	13½	4-6	W-1	24-29	18-34

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Yankees 1, Philadelphia 0
L.A. Dodgers 4, **Mets** 2
Colorado 5, Milwaukee 2
Cubs 3, Pittsburgh 2, 10 inn.
Arizona 3, Washington 2
San Francisco 7, L.A. Angels 6, 10 inn.
San Diego 4, Miami 2
Atlanta 7, Baltimore 6, 10 inn.
Cincinnati 4, St. Louis 2

Saturday

Yankees at Philadelphia, 6:05
L.A. Dodgers at **Mets**, 7:15
Arizona at Washington, 4:05
L.A. Angels at San Francisco, 4:05
San Diego at Miami, 4:10
Cubs at Pittsburgh, 6:40
Atlanta at Baltimore, 7:05
Colorado at Milwaukee, 7:10
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 7:15

POST SU DOKU

Puzzles on Page 26

1	7	8	5	2	3	6	9	4
3	9	6	1	4	7	5	2	8
5	4	2	6	8	9	1	3	7
6	2	9	8	7	4	3	5	1
8	3	7	2	1	5	9	4	6
4	1	5	9	3	6	8	7	2
7	5	4	3	6	8	2	1	9
9	6	1	4	5	2	7	8	3
2	8	3	7	9	1	4	6	5

Solution to Very Easy #7,350

6	4	1	9	8	5	3	7	2
9	2	5	3	7	4	1	8	6
3	8	7	1	6	2	4	9	5
1	3	2	5	9	6	7	4	8
8	7	9	2	4	1	6	5	3
5	6	4	7	3	8	2	1	9
2	1	3	4	5	9	8	6	7
4	5	8	6	2	7	9	3	1
7	9	6	8	1	3	5	2	4

Solution to Difficult #7,140

Yankees 1, Phillies 0

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Goldschmidt 1b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.255
Rice dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.274
Rosario 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.231
McMahon 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Bellinger lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.257
Domínguez rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.233
Volpe ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Grisham cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Caballero 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.241
A.Sánchez c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.225
Totals	**29**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**12**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.242
Schwarber dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Harper 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.253
Marsh lf-rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.288
Bohm 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.223
Stott 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.249
Realmuto c	3	0	2	0	0	1	.224
Rincones rf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.169
D.Hill pr-cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Crawford cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.255
Sosa ph-lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.217
Totals	**31**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**13**	

Yankees	000	100	000	—	1	3	0
Philadelphia	000	000	000	—	0	4	1

E: Turner (17). **LOB:** New York 4, Philadelphia 5. **2B:** Schwarber (11). **HR:** Goldschmidt (16), off Luzardo. **RBIs:** Goldschmidt (43). **CS:** Bellinger (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 2 (Goldschmidt 2); Philadelphia 3 (Schwarber 2, Marsh). **RISP:** New York 0 for 3; Philadelphia 1 for 5.

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Schlittler, W, 10-6	7.1	3	0	0	0	12	99	2.07
Headrick, H, 13	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	20	1.38
Bednar, S, 19-21	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.47

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Luzardo, L, 9-5	7.0	3	1	1	1	9	105	3.31
Bowlan	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	15	2.86
Alvarado	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	6.08

T: 2:30. **A:** 43,165 (42,901).

Diamondbacks 3, Nationals 2

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	5	1	1	1	0	2	.258
Carroll rf	3	0	1	0	2	0	.252
Perdomo ss	3	0	0	0	2	2	.234
Moreno c	4	0	2	1	0	1	.312
Arenado 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.248
Kepler lf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.220
Locklear 1b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.375
Vargas 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.270
Del Castillo dh	3	0	0	0	0	3	.204
Tawa cf	4	0	2	1	0	0	.230
Barrosa cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.193
Totals	**32**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**6**	**9**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood lf-rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.270
Mead 3b	2	0	0	0	2	0	.256
Chaparro dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.217
Tena ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Abrams ss	4	1	2	0	0	1	.288
Crews rf-cf	4	1	2	2	0	1	.219
Young cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Lile ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.244
Ford c	3	0	1	0	0	1	.286
Vivas ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.245
García 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.277
Nuñez 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.251
Ruiz ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.272
Totals	**32**	**2**	**7**	**2**	**3**	**7**	

Arizona	020	000	100	—	3	8	0
Washington	000	200	000	—	2	7	0

LOB: Arizona 10, Washington 7. **2B:** Kepler (4), Chaparro (4). **HR:** Crews (8), off Rodriguez. **RBIs:** Tawa (20), Marte (60), Moreno (37), Crews 2 (23). **SB:** Carroll 2 (13), Locklear (1), Perdomo (17). **SF:** Moreno. **S:** Del Castillo, Young. **Runners left in scoring position:** Arizona 5 (Del Castillo, Kepler 2, Perdomo, Arenado); Washington 4 (Nuñez 2, Crews 2). **RISP:** Arizona 2 for 7; Washington 0 for 4.

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodriguez, W, 9-3	6.0	7	2	2	3	4	98	2.64
Morillo, H, 12	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	2.81
Ginkel, H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	7	3.14
Sewald, S, 24-26	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	4.58

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Palmquist	1.1	2	2	2	3	1	41	9.24
Littell, L, 7-8	5.0	4	1	1	1	5	77	5.17
Cosgrove	0.1	1	0	0	1	0	9	0.00
Ribalta	1.1	1	0	0	1	3	22	3.64
Kranick	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	16.88

T: 2:37. **A:** 36,065 (41,376).

Dodgers 4, Mets 2

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	4	0	2	1	0	1	.286
Pages cf	3	0	1	0	2	0	.266
Edman 3b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.341
Freeman 1b	4	2	3	0	0	1	.294
Betts ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.232
Rojas 2b	3	0	0	1	0	0	.286
Tucker rf	3	1	2	2	1	0	.240
Hernández lf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.246
Rushing c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Totals	**34**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**3**	**5**	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.269
Soto dh	0	0	0	0	2	0	.283
Polanco ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	2	.161
Bichette 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.253
Lindor ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.228
Benge rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.260
Robert cf	3	1	1	1	0	0	.214
Young 1b	3	0	2	0	0	0	.255
Semien 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.207
Alvarez c	3	1	1	1	0	1	.258
Totals	**30**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**11**	

Los Angeles	000	100	120	—	4	11	0
Mets	010	000	010	—	2	4	0

LOB: Los Angeles 8, New York 3. **2B:** Hernández (10), Ohtani (18), Freeman (26), Young (8). **3B:** Pages (2). **HR:** Tucker (8), off Minter; Robert (4), off Sasaki; Alvarez (12), off Phillips. **RBIs:** Rojas (18), Ohtani (61), Tucker 2 (50), Robert (10), Alvarez (26). **SB:** Freeman (5). **SF:** Rojas, Ohtani. **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 4 (Edman 3, Rushing); New York 2 (Ewing, Alvarez). **RISP:** Los Angeles 1 for 13; New York 0 for 3.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sasaki, W, 4-5	7.0	3	1	1	2	9	94	4.71
Phillips, H, 2	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	22	6.00
T.Scott, S, 16-18	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	2.34

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Manaea	6.0	6	1	1	2	3	84	4.52
Raley, L, 4-5	1.0	2	1	1	1	0	23	2.15
Minter	1.0	2	2	2	0	0	12	2.45
Pérez	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	13	5.35

T: 2:34. **A:** 35,338 (42,136).

Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 4

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Clement ss-2b	4	1	0	0	0	0	.293
V.Guerrero 1b	4	1	2	0	1	0	.262
Okamoto 3b	5	1	2	3	0	2	.227
Springer dh	4	0	0	0	1	0	.226
Kirk c	4	0	1	0	1	1	.220
Schneider lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.147
Lukes ph-lf-rf	2	1	1	0	0	1	.288
Varsho cf	4	0	3	0	0	0	.243
Urías 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Giménez ph-ss	0	0	0	1	0	0	.224
Straw rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.216
Piñango ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.266
Totals	**36**	**4**	**9**	**4**	**3**	**8**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Seigler 2b	5	2	4	2	0	0	.273
Rafaela cf	5	1	2	2	0	2	.282
Abreu rf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.256
Contreras 1b	4	0	1	0	1	2	.293
Yoshida dh	2	1	0	0	2	0	.265
Jones ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.147
Durbin 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.235
Duran lf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.193
Monasterio ss	3	0	1	1	0	1	.249
Wong c	3	0	1	0	0	2	.272
Gonzalez ph	1	1	1	1	0	0	.204
Narváez c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.198
Totals	**35**	**6**	**12**	**6**	**4**	**13**	

Toronto	000	000	310	—	4	9	1
Boston	102	001	02x	—	6	12	1

E: V.Guerrero (7), Sandoval (1). **LOB:** Toronto 10, Boston 11. **2B:** Okamoto (13), Lukes (9), Seigler 2 (9), Gonzalez (3). **HR:** Okamoto (23), off Weissert; Seigler (3), off Yesavage; Rafaela (10), off Yesavage. **RBIs:** Okamoto 3 (65), Giménez (39), Seigler 2 (9), Rafaela 2 (45), Monasterio (18), Gonzalez (7). **SB:** Contreras (3). **SF:** Giménez, Monasterio. **Runners left in scoring position:** Toronto 6 (Kirk 3, Straw, Schneider 2); Boston 6 (Yoshida, Jones 2, Durbin 3). **RISP:** Toronto 2 for 8; Boston 4 for 11.

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yesavage	4.0	5	3	3	1	9	93	3.92
Fluharty	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	8	4.17
Fisher	1.0	2	1	1	1	1	24	3.83
Hoffman	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	30	4.30
Van Eyk, L, 0-1	0.1	4	2	2	0	0	22	7.71
Macko	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	6	4.87

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sandoval	4.2	5	0	0	2	3	84	3.21
T.Guerrero	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	13	2.35
Weissert	1.0	2	3	3	0	1	20	4.24
Whitlock, W, 6-1	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	12	2.13
Chapman, S, 24-26	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	23	1.87

T: 3:18. **A:** 37,405 (37,755).

Rockies 5, Brewers 2

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy lf	5	1	1	0	0	2	.303
Karros 3b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.263
Carrigg cf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.289
Goodman c	2	0	1	1	2	0	.259
Castro 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.259
Johnston 1b-rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.292
Moniak dh	2	1	0	1	1	2	.277
Freeman rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Rumfield ph-1b	2	0	2	1	0	0	.301
Tovar ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.196
Totals	**33**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**3**	**8**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	5	1	1	1	0	0	.243
Chourio lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.276
Turang 2b	4	1	3	1	0	1	.265
Contreras c	4	0	2	0	0	0	.274
Mitchell cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.275
Lara rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Vaughn ph-1b	2	0	1	0	0	1	.309
Bauers 1b-rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.256
Ortiz ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.235
Hamilton 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Sánchez ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Totals	**36**	**2**	**9**	**2**	**1**	**8**	

Colorado	201	100	100	—	5	9	0
Milwaukee	100	001	000	—	2	9	0

LOB: Colorado 5, Milwaukee 8. **2B:** Karros (19), Carrigg (8), Rumfield (22). **3B:** McCarthy (7). **HR:** Yelich (7), off Sugano; Turang (15), off Sugano. **RBIs:** Carrigg (25), Goodman (58), Karros (36), Moniak (43), Rumfield (53), Yelich (36), Turang (62). **SB:** Castro (7). **CS:** Tovar (1). **SF:** Moniak. **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 1 (Karros); Milwaukee 4 (Contreras, Yelich, Bauers 2). **RISP:** Colorado 3 for 8; Milwaukee 0 for 6.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sugano, W, 10-4	5.1	6	2	2	1	5	93	4.69
Vodnik, H, 5	1.2	0	0	0	0	1	27	5.18
Senzatela, H, 3	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	23	3.53
Romano, S, 8-10	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	22	6.14

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Drohan, L, 5-4	6.0	6	5	5	2	6	92	3.51
Anderson	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	3.38
Yoho	2.0	2	0	0	1	1	37	3.50

T: 2:51. **A:** 37,089 (41,700).

Rays 11, Guardians 3

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Martínez rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.235
DeLauter dh	3	1	1	0	1	0	.284
Hoskins 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.174
Rocchio ss	4	0	2	1	0	0	.274
Fry lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.186
Bazzana 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.238
Arias 3b	4	1	2	0	0	2	.250
Hedges c	3	1	2	2	1	0	.289
Halpin cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.198
Totals	**34**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**7**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	4	0	0	0	1	2	.304
Aranda 1b	4	1	1	0	1	2	.283
Caminero 3b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.286
Mullins cf	5	2	2	0	0	1	.204
DeLuca rf	4	3	2	1	1	2	.267
Simpson lf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.291
Vilade 2b	2	1	1	2	1	1	.260
Palacios 2b	2	1	1	3	0	1	.233
Williamson ss	5	1	1	1	0	1	.251
Fortes c	4	1	4	2	0	0	.281
Totals	**39**	**11**	**15**	**10**	**4**	**10**	

Cleveland	000	100	002	—	3	7	2
Tampa Bay	020	301	14x	—	11	15	0

E: Cantillo (1), Hedges (5). **LOB:** Cleveland 6, Tampa Bay 9. **2B:** DeLauter (20), Rocchio (16), Simpson (11), Williamson (10), Fortes (12), Mullins (6). **3B:** Mullins (2). **HR:** Hedges (4), off Roycroft; Vilade (8), off Cantillo; Palacios (4), off Gaddis. **RBIs:** Rocchio (49), Hedges 2 (17), Vilade 2 (33), DeLuca (32), Williamson (25), Fortes 2 (27), Simpson (20), Palacios 3 (30). **SF:** Simpson. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 2 (Bazzana, Martínez); Tampa Bay 6 (Caminero 2, DeLuca 2, Díaz, Vilade). **RISP:** Cleveland 1 for 6; Tampa Bay 6 for 16.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cantillo, L, 8-6	3.2	8	5	5	1	4	74	4.02
Festa	1.2	2	1	0	0	2	28	4.40
Aleman	0.2	1	0	0	1	3	21	1.54
Herrin	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	16	3.24
Armstrong	0.2	1	3	3	2	0	23	4.91
Gaddis	0.1	1	1	1	0	0	6	2.94

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McClanahan, W, 9-6	5.0	2	1	1	2	3	71	3.09
Sulser	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	15	4.96
Roycroft, S, 1-1	3.0	4	2	2	0	2	38	8.35

T: 2:41. **A:** 19,099 (25,025).

Tigers 2, Royals 1

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.238
Thomas cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.233
Perez c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.210
Marte rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.262
Caglianone ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Pasquantino 1b	4	0	0	0	0	4	.227
Loftin 3b	3	0	1	1	1	0	.249
Collins lf	3	0	1	0	0	2	.246
Massey 2b	2	0	1	0	1	1	.276
Tolbert ss	2	0	0	0	0	0	.317
Totals	**30**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**13**	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Keith 3b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.250
Torres dh	2	1	1	0	2	0	.282
Dingler c	3	0	0	0	0	3	.272
Greene lf	3	0	0	1	0	1	.282
Torkelson 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.205
Lee 2b	3	0	2	1	0	0	.267
McKinstry ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.199
Vierling cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.206
Malgeri rf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.250
Totals	**26**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**8**	

Kansas City	000	100	000	—	1	4	0
Detroit	200	000	00x	—	2	5	0

LOB: Kansas City 5, Detroit 5. **2B:** Collins (18), Perez (15), Loftin (16), Massey (19), Lee (8). **RBIs:** Loftin (33), Greene (51), Lee (21). **SF:** Greene. **S:** Tolbert. **Runners left in scoring position:** Kansas City 5 (Thomas 2, Tolbert 2, Collins); Detroit 3 (Torres, McKinstry 2). **RISP:** Kansas City 1 for 7; Detroit 1 for 5.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Way, L, 1-1	1.0	3	2	2	0	0	25	3.86
Cameron	7.0	2	0	0	3	8	97	4.93

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skubal, W, 7-5	7.1	4	1

Braves 7, Orioles 6, 10 inn.

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Baldwin dh	5	1	1	1	0	3	.273
Albies 2b	5	1	1	0	0	3	.264
Olson 1b	5	1	2	3	0	2	.269
Harris cf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.300
Dubón lf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.265
Riley 3b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.219
White rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Yastrzemski ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.226
Hicklen rf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.389
Bart c	4	1	2	0	0	1	.224
Mateo ss	2	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Smith ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.262
Jarvis ss	1	1	0	1	0	0	.286
Totals	**40**	**7**	**11**	**7**	**0**	**12**	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Beavers lf	4	0	1	0	1	2	.248
Alonso 1b	5	0	2	0	0	1	.249
Henderson ss	4	0	0	0	1	1	.223
Ward dh	5	2	1	0	0	0	.250
Cowser cf	1	0	0	0	3	1	.206
O'Neill ph	1	1	1	0	0	0	.214
Taveras rf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.234
Holliday 2b	3	1	1	1	0	1	.219
Jackson ph	0	0	0	1	0	0	.252
Encarnacion-Strand 3b	4	1	2	4	1	0	.400
Tromp c	3	0	1	0	0	1	.222
Mayo ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.197
Huff c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.125
Totals	**35**	**6**	**9**	**6**	**7**	**11**	

Atlanta	**000**	**200**	**010**				**4**	**—**	**7**	**11**	**1**
Baltimore	**020**	**100**	**000**				**3**	**—**	**6**	**9**	**1**

E: Bart (3), Holliday (4). **LOB:** Atlanta 5, Baltimore 10. **2B:** Bart (4), Harris (20), Encarnacion-Strand (1), Alonso (20). **HR:** Baldwin (20), off Garcia; Olson (27), off Kittredge; Encarnacion-Strand (3), off Lee. **RBIs:** Dubón (54), Riley (49), Baldwin (56), Jarvis (8), Olson 3 (63), Encarnacion-Strand 4 (8), Holliday (16), Jackson (38). **SB:** Beavers (4), Cowser (7). **CS:** Beavers (4). **SF:** Dubón, Holliday, Jackson. **S:** Taveras. **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 1 (Baldwin); Baltimore 8 (Tromp 2, Holliday, Encarnacion-Strand, Ward 4). **RISP:** Atlanta 3 for 8; Baltimore 2 for 11.

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Holmes	5.0	6	3	3	2	5	91	3.79
D.Young	0.2	0	0	0	2	2	22	2.70
Kinley	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	4	4.50
Hernández, W, 1-0	3.0	1	0	0	3	2	48	0.00
Lee	1.0	2	3	2	0	2	20	2.12

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rogers	7.0	6	2	2	0	6	88	4.17
Garcia, BS, 4-7	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	18	2.86
Wells	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	17	2.88
Kittredge, L, 1-2	0.2	2	4	0	0	2	18	3.77
Wolfram	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	8	4.50

T: 3:13. **A:** 35,775 (45,971).

Cubs 3, Pirates 2, 10 inn.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	4	1	2	1	1	2	.285
Suzuki rf	4	0	0	1	1	1	.267
Busch 1b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.241
Bregman 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.237
Happ lf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.223
Hoerner 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.244
Ramirez dh	4	1	1	0	0	1	.284
Kelly c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.262
Conforto ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.237
Amaya c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Swanson ss	4	0	1	1	0	2	.213
Totals	**36**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**3**	**11**	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.306
Gonzales 3b	5	0	1	1	0	0	.312
Reynolds lf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.272
Valdez rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.282
O'Hearn 1b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.277
Ozuna dh	3	1	0	0	1	0	.203
Lowe 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.241
Triolo ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.248
Davis c	3	1	2	1	1	0	.172
Totals	**36**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**3**	**6**	

Chicago	**000**	**001**	**000**				**2**	**—**	**3**	**6**	**0**
Pittsburgh	**000**	**010**	**000**				**1**	**—**	**2**	**8**	**0**

LOB: Chicago 7, Pittsburgh 8. **2B:** Crow-Armstrong (17). **HR:** Crow-Armstrong (22), off Jones. **RBIs:** Crow-Armstrong (56), Swanson (59), Suzuki (54), Davis (28), Gonzales (47). **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 4 (Busch 2, Suzuki, Kelly); Pittsburgh 3 (Reynolds 2, Lowe). **RISP:** Chicago 2 for 8; Pittsburgh 3 for 11.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Boyd	7.0	7	1	1	3	4	97	3.81
Webb	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	10	2.84
Thielbar, W, 3-2	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	4.06
Hollowell, S, 1-1	1.0	0	1	0	0	0	5	2.08

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jones	6.0	2	1	1	1	5	83	3.72
Dotel	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	21	4.84
Montgomery	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	15	3.70
Soto	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	16	3.80
Ramírez, L, 6-3	1.0	2	2	1	2	2	23	3.31

T: 2:39. **A:** 35,593 (38,753).

Athletics 2, Twins 0

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wilson ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Soderstrom lf	3	0	1	1	1	1	.248
Langeliers c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.263
Cortes dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Walton 2b	1	1	0	0	1	0	.301
Williams ph-2b	2	0	1	0	0	1	.277
White 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.348
McNeil 1b	2	0	0	0	1	0	.237
Butler rf	2	0	0	1	0	0	.199
Bolte cf	3	1	1	0	0	1	.253
Totals	**29**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**5**	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Martin lf	2	0	1	0	2	0	.241
Buxton cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.272
Jeffers c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.283
Bell dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.245
Lewis 2b	2	0	0	0	2	1	.211
Caratini 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.230
Keaschall rf	1	0	0	0	2	1	.260
Lee 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.248
Kreidler ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.229
Totals	**26**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**7**	**6**	

Athletics	**000**	**011**	**000**				**2**	**5**	**0**	
Minnesota	**000**	**000**	**000**				**0**	**2**	**0**	

LOB: Athletics 4, Minnesota 8. **2B:** White (2), Langeliers (19), Martin (13). **RBIs:** Butler (25), Soderstrom (49). **SB:** Lewis 2 (9), Keaschall (13). **SF:** Butler. **Runners left in scoring position:** Athletics 2 (Butler, White); Minnesota 5 (Jeffers 2, Bell, Lee 2). **RISP:** Athletics 1 for 6; Minnesota 0 for 8. **Runners moved up:** Wilson, White, McNeil, Jeffers.

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lopez, W, 5-4	5.0	1	0	0	4	4	91	6.12
Hartlieb, H, 1	0.1	0	0	0	3	1	18	4.76
Suarez, H, 3	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	12	4.28
Alvarado, H, 5	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	10	5.40
Harris, S, 8-12	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.15

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Matthews, L, 4-8	6.0	3	2	2	3	1	92	5.21
Funderburk	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	12	3.81
Adams	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	4.99
Anderson	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	17	2.38

T: 2:26. **A:** 26,128 (38,544).

Astros 9, White Sox 5

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	6	1	3	0	0	1	.307
Alvarez dh	4	2	1	0	1	1	.327
Paredes 3b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.261
Altuve 2b	5	1	3	1	0	0	.238
Allen 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Wade lf	3	1	1	2	1	0	.180
Trammell lf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.231
Walker 1b	5	1	1	3	0	1	.233
Spence cf	4	0	1	0	0	3	.208
Smith rf	4	1	1	2	1	1	.210
Vázquez c	5	0	2	1	0	2	.215
Totals	**39**	**9**	**13**	**9**	**4**	**9**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.281
Murakami 1b	4	1	1	0	1	1	.231
Vargas 3b	3	1	0	0	2	0	.243
C.Montgomery ss	4	0	0	1	0	0	.218
Benintendi dh	2	1	0	0	1	1	.244
Grichuk ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.245
B.Montgomery rf	5	1	3	1	0	2	.250
Peters cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.286
Acuña ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.247
Meidroth 2b	3	0	1	2	0	1	.278
Romo c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.127
Totals	**34**	**5**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**8**	

Houston	**000**	**008**	**001**				**9**	**13**	**0**	
Chicago	**300**	**020**	**000**				**5**	**8**	**1**	

E: Vargas (7). **LOB:** Houston 10, Chicago 11. **2B:** Walker (20), Vázquez (7), Meidroth (18), Murakami (8), Antonacci (13). **HR:** Smith (13), off Hudson. **RBIs:** Wade 2 (10), Walker 3 (61), Smith 2 (36), Altuve (30), Vázquez (23), C.Montgomery (58), B.Montgomery (19), Meidroth 2 (36). **SB:** Antonacci (14), Trammell 2 (3). **SF:** C.Montgomery. **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 6 (Peña 3, Walker 2, Alvarez); Chicago 6 (Antonacci, Grichuk, Romo 2, C.Montgomery 2). **RISP:** Houston 6 for 11; Chicago 2 for 16.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti	1.0	2	3	3	2	0	33	4.60
Blubaugh	2.0	1	0	0	1	2	34	3.74
Teng, W, 5-6	2.0	2	2	2	1	1	42	4.35
Sousa, H, 2	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	5.06
Abreu, H, 6	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	12	5.14
Okert, H, 14	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	20	2.09
Hader	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	1.40

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Martin	5.0	6	4	4	0	3	88	3.49
Hudson, L, 3-3, BS, 4-7	0.2	3	4	4	1	1	23	2.86
Domínguez	0.1	1	0	0	2	1	19	4.46
Richards	2.0	2	0	0	0	3	24	3.76
Murphy	1.0	1	1	1	1	1	26	4.50

T: 3:18. **A:** 28,657 (40,241).

Rangers 5, Mariners 4

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arozarena lf	5	1	1	0	0	1	.280
Rodríguez cf	5	0	1	0	0	0	.257
Canzone rf	4	0	1	2	0	1	.257
Raleigh c	4	0	1	1	0	0	.165
Naylor 1b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.259
Young 2b	4	0	3	0	0	0	.256
Garver dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.178
Wilson 3b	2	0	1	1	0	1	.232
Raley ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.229
Kennedy 3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.059
Emerson ss	3	2	2	0	1	1	.198
Totals	**36**	**4**	**10**	**3**	**2**	**9**	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.244
Langford lf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.282
Duran 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.267
Nimmo rf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.271
Carter cf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.189
Burger 1b	4	1	2	3	0	0	.240
Lopez ss	3	0	1	1	0	0	.314
Díaz c	4	0	2	0	0	0	.259
Cauley 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Osuna ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Foscue 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Totals	**34**	**5**	**10**	**5**	**1**	**4**	

Seattle	**010**	**020**	**001**				**4**	**10**	**0**	
Texas	**100**	**202**	**00x**				**5**	**10**	**0**	

LOB: Seattle 7, Texas 7. **2B:** Canzone (14), Emerson (6), Nimmo (23). **HR:** Langford (12), off Miller; Burger (18), off Miller. **RBIs:** Wilson (10), Canzone 2 (42), Langford (28), Burger 3 (64), Lopez (15). **S:** Lopez. **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 3 (Arozarena 2, Naylor); Texas 4 (Carter, Pederson 2, Foscue). **RISP:** Seattle 2 for 8; Texas 2 for 6.

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Miller, L, 4-5	5.1	6	5	5	1	0	89	2.75
Bazardo	0.2	2	0	0	0	1	13	2.80
Rucker	2.0	2	0	0	0	3	28	4.58

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gore	5.0	7	3	3	2	5	96	4.82
Gray, W, 5-0	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	14	3.35
Junis, H, 13	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	6	2.84
Alexander, H, 9	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	12	2.82
Winn, H, 9	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	5.71
Latz, S, 20-22	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	21	1.69

T: 2:47. **A:** 33,478 (40,000).

Padres 4, Marlins 2

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.283
Cronenworth 2b	2	0	0	0	3	0	.204
Machado dh	5	1	2	1	0	1	.208
France 1b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.279
Bowen pr-lf	1	1	0	0	0	1	.132
Merrill cf	4	0	0	1	0	1	.222
Campusano c	2	0	0	0	1	2	.277
Rengifo ph	1	1	1	2	0	0	.231
Fermin c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.162
Sheets lf-1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.215
Bogaerts ss	2	1	0	0	2	0	.218
Song 3b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.221
Totals	**31**	**4**	**5**	**4**	**7**	**8**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lopez ss	5	0	1	0	0	0	.330
Stowers 1b	5	0	1	0	0	3	.229
Hernández lf	4	1	2	1	0	2	.250
Edwards 2b	4	0	2	0	0	2	.292
Hicks dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.283
Conine rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.270
Jiménez ph-3b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.212
Marsee cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.194
Ruiz ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Sanoja 3b-rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.271
Mack c	4	1	1	1	0	1	.243
Totals	**36**	**2**	**9**	**2**	**1**	**11**	

San Diego	**000**	**110**	**020**				**4**	**5**	**1**	
Miami	**010**	**010**	**000**				**2**	**9**	**2**	

E: Bogaerts (5), Hernández (2), Mack (6). **LOB:** San Diego 9, Miami 9. **2B:** France (13), Edwards (14), Hernández (12). **HR:** Rengifo (2), off Zuber; Mack (10), off Márquez; Hernández (14), off Peralta. **RBIs:** Merrill (45), Machado (60), Rengifo 2 (26), Mack (30), Hernández (38). **SB:** Lopez (19), Edwards (15). **CS:** Marsee (11). **S:** Song. **Runners left in scoring position:** San Diego 5 (France 2, Machado, Tatis, Sheets); Miami 5 (Conine 2, Edwards 2, Marsee). **RISP:** San Diego 2 for 9; Miami 2 for 8.

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Márquez	2.1	3	1	1	0	4	37	5.17
Hart	2.0	2	0	0	0	2	28	5.21
Peralta, BS, 0-2	1.2	2	1	1	0	1	20	3.10
Rodriguez	0.2	2	0	0	0	1	22	2.01
Morejon, W, 8-2	1.1	0	0	0	1	2	24	3.25
Miller, S, 26-26	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	0.84

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gusto	3.1	2	1	1	1	4	57	4.50
Gibson	1.0	0	1	1	2	0	17	5.06
Petersen	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	15	2.86
Bachar	1.2	0	0	0	1	1	25	3.52
Zuber, L, 0-1	0.2	2	2	2	0	2	15	5.65
J.King	0.2	0	0	0	2	0	18	2.43
Faucher	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	4.78

T: 3:06. **A:** 16,151 (37,446).

Reds 4, Cardinals 2

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	4	1	1	0	1	1	.276
Stewart 1b	5	1	2	1	0	1	.251
Bleday lf	5	1	1	0	0	3	.236
Suárez 3b	4	1	2	2	1	1	.213
Hayes pr-3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.146
Lowe dh	5	0	2	0	0	1	.248
Steer rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.240
Stephenson c	3	0	2	1	0	1	.249
Myers cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.259
Arroyo 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.254
Totals	**37**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**3**	**11**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	2	0	0	0	2	1	.258
Walker rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.288
Burleson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.281
Herrera dh	3	1	0	0	0	2	.239
Nootbaar lf-cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.246
Winn ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Church cf	1	1	0	0	1	0	.228
Velázquez ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.215
Jordan 3b	3	0	1	2	0	0	.245
Crooks c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.184
Fermín pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Pagés c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.208
Totals	**28**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**9**	

Cincinnati	**000**	**100**	**201**				**4**	**11**	**0**	
St. Louis	**000**	**020**	**000**				**2**	**2**	**0**	

LOB: Cincinnati 10, St. Louis 3. **2B:** Stephenson (13), Jordan (5), Crooks (3). **HR:** Suárez (14), off Soriano. **RBIs:** Stephenson (28), Suárez 2 (39), Stewart (75), Jordan 2 (20). **SB:** De La Cruz 2 (18), Herrera (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** Cincinnati 6 (Bleday, Arroyo 2, Myers 2, Stewart); St. Louis 3 (Crooks, Herrera, Walker). **RISP:** Cincinnati 2 for 11; St. Louis 1 for 8.

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lowder	5.0	1	2	2	2	4	76	5.61
Ferguson	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	16	3.86
Garcia, W, 1-2	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	5	3.14
Burke, H, 12	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.74
Antone, H, 5	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	2.30
Pagán, S, 10-13	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	5.31

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
May	6.0	7	1	1	1	8	89	4.59
Soriano, L, 3-3, BS, 2-6	1.0	3	2	2	0	1	15	3.57
Stanek	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	16	4.58
Gastelum	1.0	1	1	1	2	0	20	6.43

T: 2:34. **A:** 29,900 (44,494).

CFL

Canadian Football League

East Division

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Montreal	5	1	0	10	208	186
Hamilton	3	3	0	6	149	159
Toronto	2	4	0	4	194	207
Ottawa	0	6	0	0	153	213

West Division

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Edmonton	6	1	0	12	203	172
Saskatchewan	4	2	0	8	204	169
Winnipeg	4	3	0	8	185	208
Calgary	3	4	0	4	278	244
BC	1	4	0	2	140	156

Week 8

Thursday

Edmonton 36, Saskatchewan 34

Friday

Calgary 52, Winnipeg 30

Saturday

Toronto at BC, 7pm

Sunday,

Hamilton at Montreal, 7pm

Friday's Crossword Answers

■	E	A	R	S	■	C	A	L	L	E	
E	M	M	E	T	■	S	P	E	A	R	
G	O	L	D	E	N	T	E	M	P	O	
A	T	I	O	W	A	■	R	O	S	S	
N	E	A	■	A	R	S	O	N	■	■	
■	■	■	O	R	V	A	L	■	■	■	
■	■	S	I	T	A	R	■	A	K	A	
E	M	I	L	■	E	A	S	L	E	R	
L	E	E	M	A	Z	Z	I	L	L	I	
K	E	N	A	N	■	E	R	I	C	A	
S	T	A	N	D	■	N	E	N	E	■	

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL		
4 p.m.	Padres at Marlins	FS1
6:05 p.m.	Yankees at Phillies	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
7:15 p.m.	Dodgers at Mets	Fox, 880 AM
MEN'S SOCCER		
6:30 p.m.	FC Charlotte at Red Bulls	Apple TV
7 p.m.	USL Championship: Las Vegas Lights at Detroit City	ESPN2
7 p.m.	FC Cincinnati at Columbus Crew	FS1, Apple TV
7:30 p.m.	Chicago Fire at NYCFC	Apple TV
9:30 p.m.	FC Dallas at San Diego FC	FS1, Apple TV
9:50 p.m.	CONCACAF U20 Championship Group Stage: U.S. vs. Haiti	FS2
11 p.m.	USL League One: Westchester SC at AV Alta FC	MSG
WNBA BASKETBALL		
8:30 p.m.	All-Star Game: Team Cooper vs. Team Weatherspoon	ABC
NWSL WOMEN'S SOCCER		
5 p.m.	Kansas City Current at Boston Legacy	ION
7:45 p.m.	Utah Royals at North Carolina Courage	ION
GOLF		
6 a.m.	LPGA Tour: ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open, 3rd Round	Golf
8 a.m.	LIV Golf League: United Kingdom, 3rd Round	Fox
8 a.m.	LPGA Tour: ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open, 3rd Round	CNBC
8:30 a.m.	PGA Tour Champions: ISPS HANDA Senior Open, 3rd Round	Golf
Noon	PGA Tour Champions: ISPS HANDA Senior Open, 3rd Round	NBC
1 p.m.	PGA Tour: 3M Open, 1st Round	Golf
3 p.m.	PGA Tour: 3M Open, 1st Round	CBS
3 p.m.	2026 U.S. Junior Amateur: Championship Match	Golf
4:30 a.m. (Sun.)	LPGA Tour: ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open, Final Round	Golf
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS		
Noon	UFC Fight Night: Ankalaev vs. Guskov; Erceg vs. Temirov	Paramount+
10 p.m.	PFL: Main Card	ESPN
FOOTBALL		
Noon.	NFL Flag Football Boys and Girls Championships	ESPN, NFLN
2 p.m.	2026 WFA Pro National Championship: Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota	ESPN2
5 p.m.	NFL Flag Football Boys and Girls Championships	ABC, NFLN
6 p.m.	NFL Flag Football Boys and Girls Championships	NFLN
7 p.m.	CFL: Toronto Argonauts at British Columbia Lions	CBSSN
LACROSSE		
5:30 p.m.	H.S. Girls: All-America Senior

The POST Line

MLB
Saturday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	**-102-121**	PHILLIES
Dodgers	**$127-157**	**METS**
TIGERS	**$148-185**	Royals
Blue Jays	**-103-119**	RED SOX
RAYS	**$113-138**	Guardians
TWINS	**$119-146**	Athletics
Astros	**$101-124**	WHITE SOX
Mariners	**-105-117**	RANGERS
NATIONALS	**$113-138**	Diamondbacks
MARLINS	**$111-136**	Padres
PIRATES	**$112-137**	Cubs
BREWERS	**$181-228**	Rockies
CARDINALS	**$126-155**	Reds
Angels	**$105-129**	GIANTS
Braves	**-109-113**	ORIOLES

Home team in CAPS

WNBA
Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Team Weatherspoon	**3.5 (277.5)**	Team Cooper

game held in Chicago

NFL
Wed. Sept. 9

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
SEAHAWKS	**3.5 (44.5)**	Patriots
Thur. Sept. 10		
RAMS	**3 (48.5)**	49ers
Sun. Sept. 13		
Cowboys	**2.5 (48.5)**	**GIANTS**
TITANS	**3 (39.5)**	**Jets**
LIONS	**7 (48.5)**	Saints
JAGUARS	**7.5 (40.5)**	Browns
Bears	**2.5 (44.5)**	PANTHERS
Bills	**1.5 (45.5)**	TEXANS
Ravens	**3.5 (49.5)**	COLTS
BENGALS	**3.5 (50.5)**	Buccaneers
STEELERS	**3 (42.5)**	Falcons
CHARGERS	**11.5 (45.5)**	Cardinals
EAGLES	**5.5 (46.5)**	Commanders
RAIDERS	**3 (41.5)**	Dolphins
Packers	**1.5 (44.5)**	VIKINGS
Monday		
CHIEFS	**2.5 (42.5)**	Broncos

Home Teams In CAPS

CFL
Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Argonauts	**3.5 (58.5)**	LIONS

STITCHES

Hungry? Bite on Wacha-mole

"Very admirable of you Mr. Stitches to absorb the loss after the Padres' Griffin Canning didn't start the game. All bets should be off the table." — *Pete*

Like Spike Lee says, "Do The Right Thing." Because if you do, then 53 years later the Knicks will win a championship.

The Tigers seem to have played themselves back into the playoff conversation. Casey Mize throws Saturday. Mize has given up four runs on 10 hits in his past nine innings. The Royals visit.

Michael Wacha goes for K.C. The aging Wachamole showed he can still spice his fastball after allowing one run on three hits over six innings against the Giants. Wacha two-hit the Tigers over seven shutout innings back in May. Play $50 on Wacha and the Royals.

-$

Do the right thing? Bryce Miller didn't. He gave up five runs, including a pair of Texas-sized homers, and the Rangers slipped by Seattle 5-4. Down -241 dickdragos.

stitches@nypost.com

SOCCER

Favorites to win 2026 MLS Cup

TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS
Inter Miami	+333	Charlotte FC	40/1
Los Angeles FC	+750	Minnesota United	40/1
Vancouver Whitecaps	+750	New England Revolution	40/1
Nashville SC	+800	FC Dallas	50/1
FC Cincinnati	12/1	DC United	66/1
Seattle Sounders	22/1	Orlando City	80/1
San Jose Earthquakes	22/1	Columbus Crew	80/1
San Diego FC	25/1	St. Louis City SC	80/1
NYCFC	25/1	Portland Timbers	100/1
Red Bull New York	28/1	Colorado Rapids	100/1
Real Salt Lake	28/1	Atlanta United	100/1
Los Angeles Galaxy	33/1	Toronto FC	100/1
Houston Dynamo	33/1	CF Montreal	150/1

TOP PLAY

Spence's comeback will be worth the wait

By MALIK SMITH

Errol Spence Jr. makes his long-awaited return to the ring after a three-year layoff to face Tim Tszyu on Saturday in Australia.

Spence (28-1, 22 KOs) suffered the first loss of his career in devastating fashion the last time he was in the ring. Three years ago, in the biggest fight of his life against Terence Crawford, Spence was bludgeoned for seven rounds and lost by TKO.

Facing Tszyu (27-3, 18 KOs) on his home turf is an incredible challenge for Spence to take on in his first fight back.

Along with the long layoff, other variables are at play for Spence that could prove significant. The former welterweight champion switched trainers after falling out with his longtime coach.

Spence also has fought outside of the United States only twice in his career: once in Canada and once in the United Kingdom. On the other side of the matchup, Tszyu will be comfortable fighting in front of his own fans and should have the crowd on his side.

While those factors may impact Spence, he's still the favorite, for good reason. Prior to his loss to Crawford, Spence was the man to beat in the welterweight division. He consistently put pressure on his opponents and had the power to finish fights.

The fact that Spence is a southpaw gives him an edge in this fight. The last time Tszyu lost, he faced another southpaw. Sebastian Fundora pressured Tszyu and kept him off-balance throughout the fight.

ERROL SPENCE JR.

Spence has said this could be his last fight, win or lose, and his motivation is to ensure he doesn't end his career with the bad taste of his loss to Crawford in his mouth.

Only Spence knows if he will actually hang up the gloves, but I think he'll emerge victorious Down Under.

THE PLAY: Errol Spence Jr. moneyline.

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026 W-L	2026 ERA	*REC	'26 vs OPP W-L	'26 vs OPP ERA	CAREER vs OPP	LAST 3 STARTS W-L	LAST 3 STARTS IP	LAST 3 STARTS ERA
Dodgers	Yamamoto (R)		10-6	2.78	12-6	0-0	1.17	0-0	2-1	22.0	3.27
Mets	McLean (R)	(7:15pm)	7-6	3.34	9-11	0-0	1.29	0-0	2-1	18.0	1.00
Angels	Johnson (R)		2-4	6.10	2-5	–	–	–	1-1	14.0	3.86
Giants	Ray (L)	(4:05pm)	8-6	3.33	11-8	–	–	1-0	1-0	15.0	3.00
Yankees	Weathers (L)		3-7	4.40	9-10	–	–	0-3	0-1	14.0	6.43
Phillies	TBD	(6:05pm)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Braves	Elder (R)		6-6	4.06	11-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	14.0	6.43
Orioles	Young (R)	(7:05pm)	8-2	3.25	13-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	19.0	3.79
Royals	Wacha (R)		5-7	3.66	6-14	1-0	0.00	3-3	0-2	16.2	5.94
Tigers	Mize (R)	(1:10pm)	4-6	2.79	5-10	0-0	0.00	3-2	1-1	15.2	3.45
Blue Jays	Cease (R)		6-5	2.67	11-7	1-1	3.38	2-2	2-1	21.0	1.29
Red Sox	Gray (R)	(4:10pm)	12-1	2.48	14-4	0-0	3.86	4-4	3-0	18.0	1.50
Guardians	Bibee (R)		4-9	3.86	7-14	0-1	1.80	1-3	2-0	16.2	4.86
Rays	Martinez (R)	(6:10pm)	9-2	2.59	15-4	1-0	0.00	1-1	2-0	16.2	2.16
Athletics	TBD		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Twins	TBD	(7:10pm)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Astros	Brown (R)		1-1	4.05	4-4	1-0	4.50	4-0	0-1	14.2	7.98
White Sox	Burke (R)	(7:10pm)	7-4	3.20	8-8	0-1	17.18	0-1	2-0	19.2	0.92
Mariners	Woo (R)		7-6	4.16	10-9	1-1	2.25	3-3	1-0	17.1	3.63
Rangers	Eovaldi (R)	(7:15pm)	9-8	4.21	11-8	1-1	3.27	3-5	1-1	15.0	6.00
D'Backs	Bratt (L)		0-0	5.06	2-1	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	10.2	5.06
Nationals	Griffin (L)	(4:05pm)	11-2	2.68	16-4	1-0	1.80	1-0	3-0	19.0	1.42
Padres	Sears (L)		2-3	4.38	2-3	0-0	2.84	1-0	1-2	14.1	2.51
Marlins	Pérez (R)	(4:10pm)	5-7	3.54	8-9	0-1	3.60	0-1	1-1	19.0	0.95
Cubs	Imanaga (L)		6-8	3.91	9-11	0-0	0.00	2-0	1-2	16.2	1.62
Pirates	Skenes (R)	(6:40pm)	9-8	3.43	9-12	0-1	1.69	2-3	3-0	18.1	2.45
Rockies	Feltner (R)		3-4	5.48	6-8	0-0	1.50	1-1	1-2	12.2	9.95
Brewers	Gasser (L)	(7:10pm)	2-4	4.91	5-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	15.2	5.74
Reds	Greene (R)		2-1	6.06	2-1	0-0	0.00	2-4	2-1	16.1	6.06
Cardinals	Pallante (R)	(7:15pm)	10-6	4.02	11-8	1-0	1.50	7-4	1-1	16.0	5.06

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 25	SUN July 26	MON July 27	TUE July 28	WED July 29
Yankees	Philadelphia 6:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Philadelphia 7:20 NBC/Peacock 660 AM 101.9 FM	White Sox 7:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	White Sox 7:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	White Sox 7:40 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM
Mets	Dodgers 7:15 Fox 880 AM	Dodgers 1:40 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 1:10 SNY 880 AM
Giants	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME	Los Angeles 10:00 My9	NO GAME

Today		Today		Wednesday	
Red Bull New York	FC Charlotte 6:30 Apple TV	NYCFC	Chicago Fire 7:30 Apple TV	NJ	Bay FC 10:00 CBSSN

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER: Kerr helps Gotham FC earn a point

Sam Kerr scored his first goal for Gotham FC after transferring last month from Chelsea in the 62nd minute to help the visitors earn a 2-2 draw against the Portland Thorns on Friday night in a NWSL match.

Midge Purce's goal in the second minute gave Gotham a 1-0 lead. Gotham defender **Emily Sonnett** appeared to hurt her left knee in the 10th minute and was carried off the field in a stretcher. **Jesse Fleming** gave Portland a 2-1 advantage in the 53rd minute before Kerr's equalizer helped Gotham earn a point and jump into first place over Washington Spirit in the NWSL standings.

MLB: Skubal wins in possible home finale

Tarik Skubal recorded a season-high 12 strikeouts and allowed one run in 7 1/3 innings in what could have been his last home start for Detroit, helping the Tigers to a 2-1 home victory over the Royals.

The subject of trade rumors as he approaches free agency, the two-time defending AL Cy Young winner pitched out of a seventh-inning jam before walking off the mound to a standing ovation from the sold-out crowd of 40,638.

● In Baltimore, **Matt Olson** hit his 27th home run as part of a four-run 10th inning, and the Braves defeated the Orioles 7-6.

● In St. Petersburg, Fla., **Ryan Vilade** and **Richie Palacios** hit home runs, Nick Fortes had four hits, and the Rays beat the Guardians 11-3.

● In Miami, pinch hitter **Luis Rengifo** hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning and the Padres beat Miami 4-2, extending the Marlins' losing streak to 10.

● In Pittsburgh, **Dansby Swanson** hit an RBI single and **Seiya Suzuki** drew a bases-loaded walk in the 10th inning as the Cubs held on for a 3-2 win over the Pirates.

● In Washington, **Gabriel Moreno** drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly and the Diamondbacks beat the Nationals 3-2.

● In Milwaukee, **Tomoyuki Sugano** picked up his 10th win and Kyle Karros and **TJ Rumfield** each had two hits as the Rockies capitalized on a fast start to beat the Brewers 5-2.

GOLF: Kim cards 59 at 3M Open

Michael Kim shot the 15th 59 in PGA Tour history Friday, making a 24-foot putt for birdie on the 18th hole at the 3M Open in Blaine, Minn. Kim birdied the final four holes of his bogey-free round at TPC Twin Cities to get to 14-under for the tournament and open a a three-shot lead over three players after two rounds. **Ben Kohles**, who had a two-shot lead entering the day, shot a 69 to drop into a tie for second with **Chandler Phillips** (65) and **Emiliano Grillo** (67).

● Australia's **Lucas Herbert** extended his lead to four strokes with another strong showing in the second round of LIV Golf United Kingdom in Rocester, England. Herbert is 17-under 127 at the halfway point of the event.

ODDS & ENDS

WNBA
Saturday All-Star Game

FULL-GAME MONEYLINE	ODDS
Team Spoon	-158
Team Coop	+134
CAITLIN CLARK PROPS	**ODDS**
10+ points	-650
15+ points	-192
20+ points	+136
25+ points	+310
30+ points	+700
35+ points	+1240
40+ points	18/1
3+ made 3s	-188
4+ made 3s	+124
6+ assists	-440
PAIGE BUECKERS PROPS	**ODDS**
10+ points	-520
15+ points	-142
20+ points	+182
25+ points	+430
30+ points	+820
35+ points	14/1
40+ points	18/1
3+ made 3s	+116
4+ made 3s	+260
6+ assists	-240
BREANNA STEWART PROPS	**ODDS**
10+ points	-350
15+ points	+104
20+ points	+275
25+ points	+700
30+ points	+1240
3+ made 3s	+550
4+ made 3s	12/1
6+ rebounds	-192

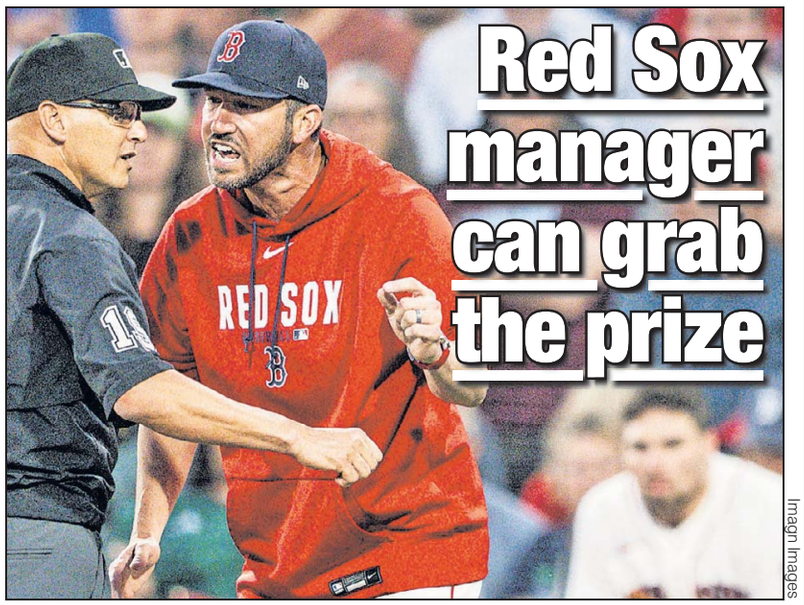
NBA
Favorites to win 2026-27 championship
(BetMGM, after LeBron signing)

TEAM	CURR.
Thunder (before: +260)	+275
Spurs (before: +260)	+275
Knicks (before: +850)	+850
76ers (before: 18/1)	10/1
Celtics (before: 12/1)	12/1
Heat (before: 16/1)	16/1
Raptors (before: 22/1)	25/1
Nuggets (before: 25/1)	22/1
T'wolves (before: 25/1)	22/1
Cavaliers (before: 20/1)	22/1
Pistons (before: 25/1)	25/1
Pacers (before: 40/1)	50/1

Eastern Conference

TEAM	CURR.
Knicks (before: +325)	+350
76ers (before: +700)	+400
Celtics (before: +450)	+500
Raptors (before: +800)	+800
Pistons (before: +750)	+900
Cavaliers (before: +800)	10/1
Heat (before: +900)	12/1
Pacers (before: 16/1)	16/1

BET SMART



Red Sox manager can grab the prize

Imagn Images

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE DICK TRACY ... to figure out that Red Sox interim skipper Chad Tracy has a great chance to win the AL Manager of the Year award. His odds have gone from 35/1 to 8/1 and Sean Treppedi writes he's well worth the wager.

By SEAN TREPPEDI

Oh, what three weeks of a baseball season can do.

In that span, the Red Sox have surged from being Craig Breslow's farrago of failure to the game's most exciting team.

Interim manager Chad Tracy has gone from an anonymous pawn to a trending Wikipedia search.

Their franchise-tying 15-game win streak came to end Wednesday, but the season feels as if it's only just beginning as the Red Sox went from the worst record in the American League as of June 24 to a wild-card contender.

The downward spiral reached rock bottom that week when the Red Sox dropped a series to the perennially pathetic Rockies. After a ninth-inning collapse on June 22 when Aroldis Chapman gave up three runs to blow the save in a 3-2 loss, Tracy sent a team text message standing by the players.

"I'm not gonna turn on you. I know what you're going through. I've been here. All these losses, we're doing it together, and we're gonna find a way to win together," Tracy wrote, per the Boston Globe. "When you guys are rolling in the [expletive], we're rolling in it with you. And when we get to the point where all the flowers come out, we'll be there with you."

The team reportedly bought into that sentiment and, since then, has gone 21-4, clawing its way from 31-45 to 52-49 entering Friday.

Tracy was dealt an impossible hand when Alex Cora was fired as the sacrificial lamb April 25 and he was promoted from Triple-A Worcester despite zero MLB management experience. That decision read as half-baked, but the organization felt Tracy's healthy relationships with players who came up through the system and his ability to connect with young players were valuable.

The 46-year-old former minor leaguer has surged up the AL Manager of the Year betting market, jumping from 35/1 to 8/1 at FanDuel and climbing as much as 24 percentage points on Kalshi.

Aside from demonstrating effective on-field leadership, contending with a limited roster is the key to winning this award.

White Sox manager Will Venable leads the race at +115 since revitalizing a club that posted the worst record in history only two years ago to now AL Central leaders. Tampa Bay's Kevin Cash remains the only other viable candidate, but after having won the award twice in the last six years, voters are craving a fresh narrative.

There are some conflicting signals here. While Venable remains the favorite, FanDuel currently gives the Red Sox slightly better odds to make the playoffs than the White Sox.

Even if Chicago does reach October, it's not as though it had to navigate a gauntlet. The American League has been unusually wide open this season, and the AL Central has been — surprise, surprise — even softer. Another year of small payrolls and rebuilding cycles has the division on pace to finish with a combined winning percentage below .500 for the sixth straight season.

The White Sox's pitching pales in comparison to the Red Sox, so with another two months still to play, Tracy carries the upside.

And there's no bias against interim managers either. The award has been won by two before: Jack McKeon in 2003 and Tracy's father, Jim, in 2009.

BOOKEND BEASTS

Jets' 2 young OTs are future stars and key building blocks

THESE 2 ARE NO. 1: Offensive tackles Armand Membou and Olu Fashanu (below) were first-round picks by the Jets in consecutive drafts. Both are projected as future NFL stars. Bill Kostroun (2)

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Breece Hall recently called Olu Fashanu and Armand Membou the Jets' "two future $100 million tackles."

Based on 25 years of history, the NFL would call hitting on *both* of two offensive tackles drafted with first-round picks in back-to-back years "a lightning strike," but maybe the hard-luck Jets are due for just that kind of rarity.

"From a talent perspective, absolutely they both can be those type of tackles," ESPN NFL analyst Damien Woody, a former Jets right tackle, told The Post. "Did Breece pull the trigger a little too early? Maybe. But the Jets might have hit the jackpot with both of these guys, and if you do that, it sets the table for your offense for years to come."

Though drafted by different general managers, Fashanu (No. 11 in 2024) and Membou (No. 7 in 2025) are one of only five pairs of offensive tackles taken with first-round picks in back-to-back drafts since 2000, according to The Post's research of Pro Football Reference's database. There are 12 other instances of a team selecting back-to-back (or same-draft), first-round offensive linemen, including guards and centers.

The Saints (Taliese Fuaga-Kelvin Banks) followed the same blueprint as the Jets in the same two classes. Before them, the Packers (Bryan Bulaga-Derek Sherrod in 2010-11), Seahawks (Russell Okung-James Carpenter in 2010-11) and Lions (Stockar McDougle-Jeff Backus in 2000-01) were the last to go tackle-tackle.

None of the previous three teams had both tackles re-sign second contracts and become

building blocks: Sherrod flamed out after four NFL seasons, Carpenter moved to guard and signed with Jets in 2015, and McDougle signed with the Dolphins in free agency. All three teams found at least one homegrown stalwart.

"Offensive line is one of those positions where it takes time to develop and you just don't know," Woody said, "but I look at the Jets' tackles and have to be very encouraged. I think both of them have shown in their young careers that the arrow is pointing up and they have the opportunity to be very good — or maybe the best bookend duo in the league."

The Giants tried a similar plan by drafting Andrew Thomas (2020) and Evan Neal (2022) with top-seven picks in a three-draft span. Thomas remains one of the NFL's best left tackles but Neal flopped almost from the outset.

Membou and Fashanu were ranked No. 30 and No. 36, respectively, among NFL tackles by Pro Football Focus last season, allowing a combined 14 sacks on 2,087 offensive snaps, missing only nine snaps between them and blocking for Hall's 1,000-yard rushing season. But Woody is using a trained eye to look beyond numbers.

"Membou is strong as an ox — a road grader in the run game," Woody said. "He is a tone-setter who can displace guys like few can in the NFL. He's one of the most athletic tackles in the game. If you look at the measurables, he moves differently than most guys. As his rookie year progressed, he got better and better in pass protection. That's the type of guy, in the next two or three years, you would not be surprised if he is the best right tackle in the game."

Fashanu will protect his fifth quarterback (Geno Smith) in three seasons come Week 1.

"Membou is probably a little further along ... but Olu is a smooth athlete — able to mirror and move his feet, and that's what you have to do when you are protecting the blind side," Woody said. "He's getting better in the run game."

Seven offensive tackles have multi-year contracts worth more than $100 million, per Spotrac.com, but the salary cap is rapidly rising.

The Buccaneers extended the pairing of Tristan Wirfs (2020 first-rounder) and Luke Goedeke (2022 second-rounder) to deals worth up to $230 million total as they try to catch up to the Broncos, Eagles and Bills for the best bookend pairing.

The Jets' team-building strategy appears to be dropping a highly drafted rookie quarterback into a ready-made offense in 2027, with all 10 other starters already under contract.

"The offensive line is the engine — they make things go," Woody said. "If those guys and [guard] Joe Tippman play together and don't spend a lot of time in the ice tub, they have a chance to be pretty damn good.

"Taking the 30,000-foot view, that's a great position to be when you have two young tackles to protect your future quarterback. They are in a good spot on the offensive line."

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NYCFC look for boost from World Cup

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

New York City FC head coach Pascal Jansen on Friday expressed hope that the World Cup will draw in new fans to the MLS club, a day before NYCFC play its first home match since the tournament ended.

It's a hope that extends from NYCFC executives to those across the Hudson River in the front office of Red Bull New York to the league office in midtown Manhattan. Saturday will be the first litmus test for all involved as the "world's game" returns to the metropolitan area with both NYCFC and the Red Bulls in action.

Saturday
CHICAGO FC AT NYCFC
7:30 p.m.
at Yankee Stadium
Apple TV

"Having the World Cup here in the U.S. and in Canada and Mexico, hopefully will give this game [against Chicago Fire] another boost," Jansen said following the team's training on Friday in Rockland County. "Seeing new fans getting hooked up and enjoying this game is something that will come of it. The people who haven't been to the New York City games is something that I'm looking forward to, so hopefully the World Cup has inspired a lot of people to come and watch more football."

New York City FC spent significant time trying to extend olive branches to area soccer fans during the run of the World Cup, having a presence at various watch parties and events around the city. The club set up what it called the "City Corner" at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, which hosted official watch parties during the group stage of the World Cup in order to expose potential new fans to their brand and show off the club's new stadium being built in Queens next door to Citi Field.

Club data provided to The Post indicated that their efforts have paid dividends and that NYCFC saw a 254 percent increase in ticket sales when comparing the 40 days before the start of the World Cup with the 40 days during and following the tournament.

A club spokesperson also said that ticket sales for Saturday's match in The Bronx were up 35 percent — roughly 6,000 more tickets sold — versus "the comparable game last year."

Saturday's match will be former Barcelona star Robert Lewandowski's second match since moving to MLS earlier this month.

Post Time: **12:35 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saturday Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Always A Runner (10th)
Lock Record: 6 for 12 (50%)
Meet Record: 30/129 $203.82

1 6 fur; $115,000 mdn; 2YO(f)

Coaching Club American Oaks day at the Spa!

Two-year-old fillies in the opener. **MS LIU** debuted 3rd after a troubled start. Gaffalione rides for Antonucci. Edge over first time starters **ELEVATED** (Mott/Alvarado/Flightline), **BADITTUDE** (Pletcher/Irad/Uncle Mo), **MYSTICIOUS** (Brisset/Saez/Mitole) and **HELP A GIRL OUT** (Pletcher/Prat/Gun Runner).

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Texas Dandelion	123	J Ortiz	2-3-x	Sharp	6-1
2	Lady Girvin	123	J Velazquez	x-x-x	R Dutrow	15-1
3	Ms Liu	123	T Gaffalione	3-x-x	Antonucci	8-1
4	Lucerra	123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Mott	15-1
5	Intraosseous	123	R Santana, Jr	3-x-x	LaRose	8-1
6	Help a Girl Out	123	F Prat	x-x-x	Pletcher	5-1
7	Elevated	123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	2-1
8	Mysticious	123	L Saez	x-x-x	Brisset	8-1
9	Badittude	123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Pletcher	9-2

2 1 mile; $70,000; alw; 3up(f)

Indeed. **POWER OF WOMEN** stretched to 7/8 and powered down the lane to win by 10+ lengths. Fast filly stretches longer still off the DePaz claim. Irad plays catch us if you can. **TIMIA** is 2 for 20 but has hit the board 8 straight. Again under Prat. **LADY DELILAH** moved lower and ran home 3rd. She's now 1 for 24. Lezcano on the lonhgshot. **AP SLINGSHOT** was 3rd behind Timia, then 2nd, a neck better. **SUCCESSFUL AGENDA** stretched to a mile and graduated at 2nd asking at 19-1. Competitively spotted.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Lady Wisdom(L)	126	R Santana, Jr	1-4-1	Kantarmaci	5-1
2	A. P. Slingshot(L)	126	M Franco	2-3-1	Levine	7-2
3	Power of Women(L)	121	I Ortiz, Jr	1-4-2	De Paz	5-2
4	Sabby Sunset(L)	126	S Gonzalez	2-3-4	Kantarmaci	12-1
5	Lady Delilah(L)	126	J Lezcano	3-7-1	Ferraro	15-1
6	Spirit of Esther(L)	126	T Gaffalione	3-4-5	Kantarmaci	12-1
7	Timia(L)	126	F Prat	3-2-2	Potts	3-1
8	Successful Agenda(L)	121	D Davis	1-5-x	Sharp	6-1

3 6 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO

More 2YOs. Ten colts. **BLACKJACK** debuted 3rd (at 29-1) behind a next out winner here in June. And **GRAND YAUPON** debuted 4th (at 16-1) at Churchill. Both can move forward. Spendthrifts' **FOOLIN** (Pletcher/Irad/Practical Joke), Repoles' **BACKLASH** (Pletcher/Prat/Gun Runner) and **FERRUM** (Gargan/Carmouche/Uncle Mo) are live first-timers.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Blackjack	123	E Zayas	3-x-x	Delgado	8-1
2	Warrior At Heart	123	T Gaffalione	x-x-x	Beckman	15-1
3	Ferrum	123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	Gargan	9-2
4	Silverus	123	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Weaver	6-1
5	Cactus Closer	123	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Romans	15-1
6	Foolin	123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Pletcher	5-1
7	Backlash	123	F Prat	x-x-x	Pletcher	8-1
8	Gold On Black	123	L Saez	x-x-x	Mott	12-1
9	Grand Yaupon	123	J Ortiz	4-x-x	Asmussen	3-1
10	Belzoni	123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	8-1

4 1 mile(T); $105,000; alw; 3up

On the turf. **SIR OSCAR** surged from off the pace to break maiden (5th start). Well spotted, same distance for Weaver and gets a pace to chase. **HONOREE** graduated (3rd start), then 3rd, a length short next out. **ORTUS** was a non-threatening 9th before taking a breather in May. Lost by thismuch at Saratoga last summer.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Charles J.	126	J Velazquez	8-7-6	Lee	12-1
2	Sir Oscar(L)	126	M Franco	1-2-2	Weaver	3-1
3	Honoree(L)	121	I Ortiz, Jr	3-1-2	McGaughey III	5-2
4	Three Thirteen(L)	121	S Bridgmohan	6-10-3	Giddings	15-1
5	Inspeightofcharlie(L)	126	J Ortiz	5-2-1	Tagg	7-2
6	Kings Dancer(L)	121	K Davis	7-1-6	Dixon	30-1
7	Ortus(L)	126	J Lezcano	9-3-6	Lewis	12-1
8	Alzero(L)	126	J Rodriguez	1-4-3	James Bond	20-1
9	Naguile(L)	126	F Prat	7-1-3	Brion	6-1
10	Perfectworks(L)	126	C Elliott	4-3-1	Callaghan	12-1
11	Resurgo(L)	126	J Alvarado	1-5-1	Gardea	5-1
12	Solo Empire(L)	126	E Zayas	1-6-4	Rodriguez	30-1
13	Who's Your Zaddy(L)	121	R Santana, Jr	12-5-1	Green	2-1

5 1 1/16 miles(T); $120,000; alw; 3YO

We saw **KINGS REMARK** debut with a W at Aqueduct. Ran in the Jersey Derby at Monmouth and finished well for 3rd. Rebound chance, extending longer for Clement. **MINORINCONVENIENCE** is 2 for 2 at the Spa. Choice if we're off turf. Pletchers' **WOODS** is 0 for 3 on grass but lost by a game head last out. **INSTABILITY** won at 1st asking, then lost by a hard fought neck in the Woodhaven. Brown gives him more ground. **GO GREY** is 2 for 3 on turf. The loss was in the Saranac.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Omaha Storm	123	M Franco	4-7-1	Hennig	20-1
2	Silent Impact(L)	123	J Alvarado	1-2-6	Mott	10-1
3	Quiet Power(L)	123	J Lezcano	1-3-3	McGaughey III	10-1
4	Nuck Chorris(L)	123	R Santana, Jr	1-x-x	Maker	20-1
5	Go Grey(L)	123	J Ortiz	8-1-1	Trombetta	8-1
6	King's Remark(IRE)(L)	123	D Davis	3-1-x	Clement	9-2
7	Chicken Dance(L)	123	T Gaffalione	6-1-1	Abreu	15-1
8	Woods(L)	123	J Velazquez	2-4-1	Pletcher	8-1
9	Tiz Trouble(L)	123	J Rodriguez	7-1-x	Lewis	8-1
10	Instability(IRE)(L)	123	F Prat	2-1-x	C Brown	5-2
11	Chambersville(L)	123	I Ortiz, Jr	3-3-4	McPeek	6-1
12	C McGriff(L)	123	T Gaffalione	1-2-6	Medina	3-1
13	Minorinconvenience(M)	123	R Santana, Jr	6-3-10	Green	2-1
14	Into the Light(L)	123	D Davis	2-1-2	R Dutrow	4-1

6 1 1/8 miles; $125,000; alw; 3up

Chad Brown's **EMERGING MARKET** needs a confidence builder. The Louisiana Derby winner was 10th in the Kentucky Derby and 5th in the Belmont Stakes. No excuses today. Will have to hold off Rice's **DREAMLIKE**. Stretch runner has hit the board 11 in a row, including 2 wins. **PAROS** won handily on grass. 3 for 12 on dirt, but last win was in 2024. Exotics value.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Dreamlike(L)	126	K Carmouche	2-2-3	Rice	7-2
2	Wynstock(L)	126	I Ortiz, Jr	6-5-1	Cox	5-1
3	Waitlist(L)	126	M Franco	8-5-1	Rice	12-1
4	Resilience(L)	126	J Lezcano	4-3-6	Mott	6-1
5	General Banker(L)	126	E Zayas	2-6-8	Ferraro	12-1
6	Le Gris(L)	126	J Ortiz	4-4-2	Rodriguez	6-1
7	Paros(L)	126	R Santana, Jr	1-3-6	Rodriguez	15-1
8	Emerging Market(L)	121	F Prat	5-10-1	C Brown	8-5

7 1 mile(T); $105,000; alw; 3up

OAT COUTOUR reported home a couple of lengths shy last pair. Won only start at this shorter distance. Alvarado was at the wheel. **EGYPTIAN** won narrowly, wire-to-wire, this distance. Right back if we're off turf. **GUILTY** is 0 for 2 on grass. Closed well and finished 2 lengths short at 30-1. Sprint to route for Levine. Ward's **SUPER DAVE** (3rd start) and DePaz' **TWIRLING LAD** (8th start) load off handy maiden breakers.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Guilty(L)	126	T Gaffalione	4-2-7	Levine	15-1
2	Twirling Lad(L)	121	E Zayas	1-3-9	De Paz	8-1
3	Missionattheglen(L)	121	L Saez	1-5-6	LeCesse	30-1
4	Jack's World(L)	121	F Prat	5-4-1	Rice	3-1
5	Super Dave(L)	121	D Davis	1-2-9	Ward	9-2
6	Stormy Birthday(L)	126	J Rodriguez	5-9-2	Ribaudo	15-1
7	Calvin's Ride(L)	126	J Ortiz	5-1-2	Rice	6-1
8	Sammy C Note(L)	126	M Franco	2-1-6	Miceli	6-1
9	Oat Coutour(L)	126	J Alvarado	2-4-8	Englehart	7-2
10	Wit Storm(L)	121	K Davis	5-4-1	Tagg	15-1
11	Newlyn(M)	121	R Santana, Jr	4-1-4	Weaver	8-1
12	Beach Invasion(L)	126	K Coa	1-1-2	Ferraro	30-1
13	McDiesel(L)	126	E Zayas	3-10-1	Rodriguez	50-1
14	Egyptian(L)	126	J Ortiz	1-2-4	R Dutrow	5-2

8 1 1/16 miles(T); $120,000; alw; 3YO(f)

Look for **BELLA KNOWS** to move forward, 2nd off the layoff for Brad Cox. Clear 2nd at the Big A, this distance. Rallied from last to 1st when she debuted at the Spa last summer. Rider change to Irad. **PASHMINA** MTO. **SOLOIST** Runnerup in a 150k on the dirt at Delaware. Back to the turf where she was 3rd in the Cleopatra at Indiana in May. Offers fair value under J Ortiz. **CROSSOVER CAPITAL** French filly got up to score at Monmouth in her opener. Repeat in cards, same distance for Chad Brown. **KOKOMOTION** exits at 3rd place finish in the Grade 3 Florida Oaks at Tampa.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Bourbon Betty(L)	123	D Davis	3-8-1	Hennig	8-1
2	Crossover Capital(FR)(L)	123	F Prat	1-x-x	C Brown	5-1
3	R Slew of Cash(M)	123	L Saez	4-5-6	Joseph	20-1
4	Soloist(L)	123	J Ortiz	2-3-7	McPeek	10-1
5	Paige Turner(L)	123	K Carmouche	4-2-2	DeVaux	12-1
6	Vekoma View(L)	123	J Velazquez	5-4-1	Weaver	10-1
7	River Ride(L)	123	J Lezcano	1-2-5	McGaughey III	10-1
8	New Rose(L)	123	E Zayas	7-1-6	Antonucci	15-1
9	Bella Knows(L)	123	I Ortiz, Jr	2-2-6	Cox	4-1
10	People Watching(L)	123	K Davis	3-1-7	Proctor	30-1
11	Abigail(L)	123	M Franco	3-6-5	Clement	15-1
12	Kokomotion(L)	123	T Gaffalione	3-1-x	Beckman	3-1
13	Pashmina(L)	123	Rider TBA	5-11-2	Atras	5-2

9 6 fur; $400,000; Vanderbilt; 4up

A lot to like in the Grade 2 Vanderbilt. **BUILT** lost by a neck in the longer Bango at Churchill. 2 for 4 racing 6 furlongs. **DAMONS MOUND** won a pair of stakes before shipping from Florida. Finished 4th behind Book Em Dano in last years Vanderbilt. **NUTELLA FELLA** makes seasonal debut for Joe Sharp. Won the Grade 1 Hopeful here in 2023. Lightly raced 1 for 7 since. Midpack 4th in the True North last summer. J Ortiz on the longshot. **HYMN** and **CAT ON TIME** bring 3 race winning streaks. They will make their graded stakes debut. **JUST BEAT THE ODDS** In the money 14 of 15.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Damon's Mound	122	J Alvarado	1-1-2	Mott	4-1
2	Crazy Mason	124	J Velazquez	6-3-2	Sacco	8-1
3	Cat On Time	120	T Gaffalione	1-1-1	Jacobson	15-1
4	Just Beat the Odds	120	M Franco	3-1-2	Sacco	9-2
5	Nutella Fella	120	J Ortiz	7-5-4	Sharp	15-1
6	Hymn	122	R Santana, Jr	1-1-1	Moquett	5-1
7	T Kraft	120	F Prat	5-1-4	Mott	8-1
8	Built	120	I Ortiz, Jr	2-1-3	Catalano	8-5

10 1 1/8m; $500,000; CoachingClubAmericanOaks; 3Y

A look back as we look into the CCAOaks. Chad Brown's **ALWAYS A RUNNER** beat Mark Casse's **COUNTING STARS** in the Kentucky Oaks. Counting Stars returned the favor when they met again in the Acorn. Round 3 will be contested at the same distance. Brown saddles **DIRECTIVE** as well. Makes stakes debut off back-to-back victories, the latest at this distance. Fast filly may beat top 2 to the front. **LA RASCASSE** is 2 for 2 after winning a 175k at Churchill. She's never raced this far.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Counting Stars	124	I Ortiz, Jr	1-3-1	Casse	2-1
2	Dandona	124	T Gaffalione	6-8-1	Joseph	20-1
3	La Rascasse	124	A Concepcion	1-1-x	Walden	8-1
4	Miss Fulton Gal	124	J Rodriguez	1-5-4	Gorham	30-1
5	Measure	124	M Franco	2-6-1	Casse	15-1
6	Always a Runner	124	J Ortiz	2-1-1	C Brown	9-5
7	Directive	124	F Prat	1-1-2	C Brown	6-1
8	Zany	124	J Velazquez	6-2-1	Pletcher	9-2
9	Nycon	124	L Saez	4-2-2	Beckman	30-1

11 5 1/2 fur(T); $105,000; alw; 3up(f)

DANCINGWITHDESTINY ran 2nd behind a next out winner. Led late, outkicked. May hold on tightening to 5 1/2 panels. **DANIELLA MARIE** MTO. Beat similar by a comfortable margin. **SINEAD** Wide 7th off the layoff. Better 2nd off the shelf. Irad stays on. **MOONLIGHT READY** went dirt to turf and responded with a maiden breaker. Competitively spotted.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Juliet On Approach(L)	126	E Zayas	11-5-1	Begg	20-1
2	Sinead(L)	126	I Ortiz, Jr	7-5-7	Abreu	8-1
3	Tuthilltown(L)	122	D Davis	1-6-2	Miceli	12-1
4	Moonlight Ready(L)	126	J Velazquez	1-5-x	Baker	9-2
5	Turriga(L)	126	R Santana, Jr	5-5-4	James Bond	10-1
6	Miss Jane Hathaway(L)	122	R Gutierrez	3-4-1	Ferraro	10-1
7	Dancingwithdestiny(L)	122	K Davis	2-5-3	Dini	4-1
8	Vernon Valley(M)	122	M Franco	6-4-3	Mott	12-1
9	She's Our Tiz(L)	126	K Carmouche	7-10-4	Giangiulio	8-1
10	Fifi La Fume(L)	126	C Elliott	5-4-7	Rodriguez	30-1
11	Honest Reason(L)	122	J Rodriguez	3-1-5	Dixon	20-1
12	Fairy Godmother(L)	122	T Gaffalione	6-1-3	Handal	7-2
13	Oklahoma Smoke(L)	126	J Ortiz	3-1-5	Rice	6-1
14	Quick Power Nap(L)	126	C Elliott	9-5-4	Rodriguez	15-1
15	Daniella Marie(L)	122	K Carmouche	1-3-3	Summers	9-5
16	Sunshine Lily(L)	126	Rider TBA	6-2-3	DiPrima	8-1

12 1 1/16 miles(T); $56,000; mdn clm($50,000); 3up

The 16 is **BIG FROSTY**. Fell to this height and missed by 3/4. Prat rides for Pletcher if he draws in off the AE. **LEAVE ME** raced wide and missed by 3 lengths. Moves lower for DePaz. Irad replaces Davis who stays on **LOBBYIST**. Lost by thismuch (at 35-1) at this level/distance here in June. Shorter price today. **BIG FAT GOALIE** (Fying P Stable/Falcone/Prat/Independence Hall) makes career debut.

PN	Horse	Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Dinghy Bar(L)	121	K Davis	6-5-3	Terranova II	12-1
2	Big Fat Goalie(M)	121	F Prat	x-x-x	Falcone	8-1
3	Followill(M)	121	C Elliott	9-4-x	DeVaux	15-1
4	Gilbane(M)	121	M Franco	5-2-x	Green	6-1
5	Lobbyist(L)	121	D Davis	4-2-7	Donk	3-1
6	Drayden(L)	121	E Zayas	6-x-x	Gargan	15-1
7	Leave Me(L)	121	I Ortiz, Jr	4-4-6	De Paz	2-1
8	Zip for Rick(L)	121	O Hrndz Mreno	7-5-7	Legall	50-1
9	Kuleana(M)	121	J Alvarado	7-3-3	Englehart	8-1
10	Foto(L)	126	R Santana, Jr	3-5-4	Duggan	8-1
11	Portadown Lad(L)	121	K Carmouche	6-2-8	Ferraro	20-1
12	Beau Cheval(L)	121	J Ortiz	2-5-4	Sharp	6-1
13	Bourboncentric(L)	121	R Santana, Jr	4-6-x	Morley	5-1
14	Rossbeigh(L)	126	M Franco	3-3-2	Clement	5-2
15	Nonno Joe(L)	126	L Saez	8-4-6	Rodriguez	15-1
16	Big Frosty(L)	121	F Prat	2-9-x	Pletcher	9-2

PLAY OF THE DAY

Long shot Rumblyoungmanrumbl (9-1) and extreme long shot Hello Beauty (36-1) didn't help our cause. Loss of -$48.

Three more to steer clear of. Bet $4 across the board on Ms Liu in Race 1 and Blackjack in Race 3. And $30 to win on Always a Runner in Race 10. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Saratoga Results

FIRST-7 fur; $41,000; md cl($20,0); 3up (f&m)
2 Babcie (Alvarado) 10.44 5.16 4.70
3 Hnn's Hdewy (Rodrguez) 7.80 5.68
4 Ms Nikki D (Santana,Jr.) 14.06
Scr: Oath
● $1 Exacta (2-3) $38.18 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-3-4-5) $174.43 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-3-4) $211.68

SECOND-1 1/16 mile; $115,000; mdn; 2YO F
3 Conflict (Ortiz,Jr.) 10.06 5.36 3.82
7 Just Peachy (Prat) 3.64 2.56
2 Mandy Steph (Franco) 4.66
Scr: Texas Dandelion, Bittersweet Memory, Bolt Island
● $1 Daily Double (2-3) $35.82 ● $1 Exacta (3-7) $20.24 ● $1 Quinella (3-7) $9.05 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-7-2-8) $49.25 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-7-2) $56.82

THIRD-1 mile; $120,000; alw; 3up (f&m)
6 My Gn's Ldd (Frnc) 2.60 2.10 2.10
5 Krissys Star (Rodriguez) 5.44 3.04
8 Bow Draw (Ortiz) 2.40
Scr: Brunch With Amy, Nycon, Fast and Frisky
● $1 Pick 3 (2-3-6) $46.95 ● $1 Daily Double (3-6) $10.07 ● $1 Exacta (6-5) $6.63 ● $0.1 Superfecta (6-5-8-7) $8.55 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-5-8) $11.15

Winner picked by Vic C (Lock)

FOURTH-1 mile; $52,000; clm($20,000); 4up
3 Get Job (Rodrguz) 17.88 7.42 4.44
6 Hours in a Day (Lezcano) 6.08 3.28
4 Awesome Empire (Ortiz) 3.08
Scr: Glen Airy
● $1 Pick 3 (3-6-3) $102.84 ● $1 Daily Double (6-3) $13.42 ● $1 Exacta (3-6) $43.41 ● $1 Quinella (3-6) $21.33 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-6-4-8) $44.20 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-6-4) $90.07

FIFTH-6½ fur; $42,000; clm($20,000); 3up
1 Salming (Franco) 9.04 4.68 3.06
3 Majestic Arc (Davis) 11.76 5.74
10 Swaging (Rodriguez) 2.98
Scr: Reside
● $1 Pick 3 (6-3-1) $42.54 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (3-1/3/4/6-3-1) $172.69 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (2-3-1/3/4/6-3-1) $1267.89 ● $1 Daily Double (3-1) $37.99 ● $1 Exacta (1-3) $54.80 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-3-10-2) $216.35 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-3-10) $103.62

SIXTH-5½ fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F
7 Runwy Brd (Gffln) 29.12 12.68 8.46
5 Red Coats Comng (Saez) 11.18 7.48
8 Sound of Madness (Franco) 6.52
Scr: Duty Bound, Shinobu, Without Hesitation
● $1 Pick 3 (3-1-7) $302.16 ● $1 Daily Double (1-7) $58.73 ● $1 Exacta (7-5) $143.92 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-5-8-6) $533.71 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-5-8) $353.31

Winner picked by Vic C

SEVENTH-1 1/16 mile; $110,000; alw; 3upf
4 Nonn Lynn (Frnco) 8.70 4.22 2.58
3 Sweet Annversary (Ortz) 10.26 6.36
8 Mommy's Turn (Prat) 2.66
Scr: Higher Force, Sweetest Princess, Boxed Wine, Giant At Work
● $1 Pick 3 (1-7-4) $221.34 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (3-1-7-4) $1111.10 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1/3/4/6-3-1-7-4) $1333.63 ● $1 Daily Double (7-4) $70.48 ● $1 Exacta (4-3) $69.47 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-3-8-5) $77.76 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-3-8) $132.71

EIGHTH-1 1/8 miles; $250,000; Shuvee; 4upf
3 Fully Sbscrbd (Prt) 5.44 2.66 2.10
4 Scottish Lassie (Ortiz) 2.82 2.50
1 Snowyte (Saez) 4.76
Scr: Eunomia
● $1 Pick 3 (7-4-3) $225.33 ● $0.5 Pick 5 ((X-COUNTRY P5) 7-2-4-5-3) $965.22 ● $1 Daily Double (4-3) $10.05 ● $1 Exacta (3-4) $6.20 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-4-1-5) $4.77 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-4-1) $18.56

NINTH-1 1/16m; $200,000; Rick Violette; 3Y
5 Chummers (Prat) 16.40 7.40 3.80
7 Carolne St. Beat (Franco) 5.72 3.42
6 A Little At First (Ortiz,Jr.) 2.66
Scr: Max Money, Minorinconvenience, Sunday Boy
● $1 Grand Slam (5/7/8-3/4/8-1/3/4-5) $120.79 ● $1 Pick 3 (4-3-5) $93.15 ● $1 Daily Double (3-5) $20.91 ● $1 Exacta (5-7) $34.95 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-7-6-3) $57.94 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-7-6) $46.54

TENTH-1½ mile; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 3up
2 Lmtd Edtn (SntnJr.) 18.76 9.50 5.70
6 Donndoywnn (Crmouch) 15.02 6.88
4 Gold Sovereign (Prat) 3.46
Scr: Battle
● $1 Pick 6 (1-7-4-3-5-2) $334.52 ● $1 Pick 6 (1-7-4-3-5-2) $38136.33 ● $1 Pick 3 (3-5-2) $194.95 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (4-3-5-2) $428.68 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (7-4-3-5-2) $5647.34 ● $1 Daily Double (5-2) $50.57 ● $1 Exacta (2-6) $191.63 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-6-4-7) $458.76 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-6-4) $386.27 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (4-3-5-2) $428.68 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (7-4-3-5-2) $5647.34 ● $1 Pick 6 (1-7-4-3-5-2) $334.52 ● $1 Pick 6 (1-7-4-3-5-2) $38136.33 ● $1 Daily Double (5-2) $50.57 ● $1 Exacta (2-6) $191.63 ● $0.1 Show (2-6-4-7) $458.76 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-6-4) $386.27

LeBRON'S PHILLY SURPRISE

THE KING OF THE HILL

With LeBron on board, Sixers present another big challenge to Knicks repeat

By ANDREW CRANE

This time, the 76ers opted for a different type of process — and its effectiveness will directly impact the Knicks' quest to repeat after snapping their 53-year drought.

This — the current roster assembled after LeBron James signed in Philadelphia on a two-year, $8 million deal with a player option Friday — is far from the draft-and-develop philosophy that Sam Hinkie once used more than a decade ago. Instead, new president of basketball operations Mike Gansey banked on an approach that requires microwaving chemistry, collecting superstars and hoping, in a small window, that a title follows. If it works, that has the potential to make the Knicks' path back to the NBA Finals complicated, too.

Because on paper, at least, the 76ers now resemble a significant obstacle. James has established himself as one of the greatest players in NBA history, winning titles with the Cavaliers, Heat and Lakers over a 23-year career. At 41 years old, and 42 on Dec. 30, he called this his "last decision" in a series of X posts Friday. The 76ers also added former Celtics star Jaylen Brown — capable of being the primary scorer for an offense — in a blockbuster trade earlier this month, and they already had Joel Embiid, Tyrese Maxey and V.J. Edgecombe on their roster, too.

Embiid, a former MVP who has been limited to 57 regular-season games the last two years because of injuries, can still be a primary scorer when healthy. He dropped 40 points against the Pelicans in a Jan. 31 game and recorded 30 or more points 14 times across 38 regular-season games in 2025-26. Maxey blossomed into a star at just 25, and last year, with Embiid in and out of the lineup, averaged 21.4 shots per game. And Edgecombe finished third in Rookie of the Year voting, flashed his potential against the Knicks during his first taste of the postseason in May and is seemingly set to start alongside this collection of established stars.

"I'm not going for money," James wrote on X. "I'm not going for family. What am I really playing for at this point? I still want to sacrifice. I still want to work. I still want to grind. I still want to compete, to win and to have a chance at the feeling of winning another championship.

"I believe I can help make the Philadelphia 76ers a championship team and I am so excited to energize a new fanbase and start this incredible journey one last time."

This will be a finite window for the 76ers, but when the Knicks and 76ers meet for the first time next season, Philadelphia will be far from the same team that the Knicks swept in the second round of the 2026 playoffs. That 76ers group had Paul George and Kelly Oubre Jr. in the starting lineup. That version had Quentin Grimes as a critical piece off the bench. How will head coach Nick Nurse find ways to get everyone enough chances? Who will take the final shot in a tied playoff game? Is James content with ceding the spotlight, and some shots, to Philadelphia's younger stars?

The Knicks largely will look the same — and that was by design. Their starting lineup of Jalen Brunson, Karl-Anthony Towns, Mikal Bridges, OG Anunoby and Josh Hart all meshed perfectly once the playoffs arrived and will enter with two full seasons' worth of chemistry. Key reserves, from Landry Shamet and Jordan Clarkson to Jose Alvarado and Miles McBride, all returned, too. The only key piece lost was Mitchell Robinson, who signed with the Celtics after owner James Dolan demanded that the Knicks stay under the second apron.

Sure, there was the scenario where James could have returned to the Cavaliers and paired with Donovan Mitchell. Cleveland doesn't have the same supporting cast, though, and folded against the Knicks in the Eastern Conference finals after a Game 1 collapse. Sure, there was a scenario where James could've returned to Miami, too, and paired with Giannis Antetokounmpo and Bam Adebayo. That might've been the worst-case outcome for the Knicks.

This one still could be a headache for Mike Brown's team, too. Plenty of it depends on Embiid's health. On James still having enough left with retirement front of mind. On all those other Eastern Conference contenders finding some way to fade.

With one announcement late Friday morning, the 76ers might have become the Knicks' most difficult roadblock. Emphasis on "might."

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CHALLENGE ACCEPTED: After securing their first NBA title in 53 years, the Knicks will have to wade through a deep pool of contenders if they hope to lift the trophy again this season. Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

For legend's final act, it will be title or bust

LEBRON James had a lot to weigh.

After deciding to return for his unprecedented 24th NBA season, he needed to choose where he would play.

He mulled over his options for 24 days.

Or 576 hours. Or 34,560 minutes.

Various factors tugged at his heartstrings for the swan song of one of the greatest athletes of all time.

There was the family factor. His wife, Savannah, 11-year-old daughter, Zhuri, and son, Bronny, are in Los Angeles.

There was the happiness factor. Golf had become his new passion.

There was the legacy factor. Returning to Cleveland, where he was selected as the No. 1 overall pick in 2003, would be the perfect storybook ending.

Ultimately, James didn't prioritize any of those things.

The player who devoted his life to greatness, showing up to arenas five hours before games and three hours before practices and missing countless family celebrations, decided to chase what has motivated him for two decades.

Winning a championship.

James stunned the basketball world Friday morning by agreeing to sign a two-year, $8 million deal with the 76ers.

He doesn't have history in Philadelphia, as he does with Cleveland and Miami, where he won three of his four championships. He doesn't have deep ties to the players on the roster, as he does with Draymond Green and Steph Curry in Golden State.

But he believes the 76ers give him something that has been his life force since he entered the NBA as an 18-year-old with the most pressure on his shoulders of any prospect ever.

A chance to be on the mountaintop again.

So, James will pursue his fifth ring with a new team in a sports-obsessed city. This is a gamble. This is championship or bust. He's putting it all on the line.

James could've released the pressure valve by picking Cleveland or Miami, where he has nothing left to prove.

He could've prioritized fun by choosing Golden State, where an old-men-versus-the-league narrative would've captivated fans regardless of wins or losses.

Instead, James turned up the pressure to the highest level for his final act. He entered the league under those conditions. There's something poetic about him exiting under them, too.

"This is my last decision," James wrote on X on Friday. "I'm not going for money. I'm not going for family. What am I really playing for at this point? I still want to sacrifice. I still want to work. I still want to grind. I still want to compete, to win and to have a chance at the feeling of winning another championship.

"I believe I can help make the Philadelphia 76ers a championship team and I am so excited to energize a new fanbase and start this incredible journey one last time."

James is joining a roster headlined by Joel Embiid, Jaylen Brown and Tyrese Maxey. The 76ers needed a power forward. They got the best free agent on the market in James, a 41-year-old who's arguably still a top-10 player even though he's the oldest guy in the league.

The basketball fit is beautiful. James is one of the best playmakers we've ever seen. He'll free up Maxey and Brown to score. If Embiid stays healthy, this team could challenge the reigning champion Knicks.

James won a gold medal alongside Embiid at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. He questioned why Brown wasn't getting more consideration for the MVP award last season, even though Brown was caught on camera at a 2024 Las Vegas Summer League game saying, "I don't think Bronny is a pro." He has publicly touted Maxey, who's also represented by Klutch Sports Group.

Now they're joining forces to deliver a championship to Philadelphia, which hasn't won a title since 1983 when the franchise was led by Julius Erving and Moses Malone.

You can't help but think James' decision was influenced by the Knicks' title run. He watched Jalen Brunson lead a famished fanbase to their first championship in 53 years. He saw the joy. The passion. The emotions.

He wanted to recreate that for himself.

Ultimately, he decided it's all for naught if winning isn't the end goal. So, he's going somewhere cold where he can't play golf year-round. Somewhere far from his family. Somewhere he has no history.

James genuinely contemplated retirement after an eight-season stint with the Lakers.

But the guy who has been the NBA's sun for two decades still deeply felt the gravitational pull that has been his oxygen for more than 20 years.

So he decided to return for a final act.

After rumors swirled for three weeks about his priorities, in retrospect it makes sense that only one mattered. And he's putting everything on the line to achieve it.

He wants to hear the crowd roar. He wants to see a deluge of confetti fall from the rafters. He wants to hoist the Larry O'Brien Trophy once again.

The greatest is going for greatness.

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ONE MORE TO GO: LeBron James has heaped the pressure on himself by choosing Philly, making a championship a priority. Getty Images

Melissa Rohlin

Line 'em up

The Post breaks down the top 10 players on the Knicks and the 76ers — set to be two of the Eastern Conference's contenders next season — after LeBron James' decision to sign with Philadelphia on Friday:

76ers

Projected starting five

Name	Age	'25-26 PPG
LeBron James	41	20.9

One of the greatest players of all time called this his last decision. Will it lead to the final title of his historic career too?

Jaylen Brown	29	28.7

The former Celtics star, acquired in a blockbuster trade earlier this month, served as Boston's primary scorer when Jayson Tatum was out, but now he'll be more of a secondary option again.

Joel Embiid	32	26.9

The oft-injured 7-footer has been limited to just 59 combined regular-season games the last two seasons. If healthy, Embiid, a former MVP, can still dominate, but that's a major caveat at this point.

Tyrese Maxey	25	28.3

He's still a major piece of the future in Philadelphia, but with the 76ers surrounding him with other stars in the present, Maxey, on a $204 million deal, might not need to average 21.4 attempts per game.

V.J. Edgecombe	20	16.0

Edgecombe finished third in Rookie of the Year voting last year and will complete the starting lineup of this new-look group. His ability to create off the dribble could help create space for the stars.

Bench

Anfernee Simons	27	14.3

Simons, a guard, inked a two-year deal with the 76ers in free agency and will provide depth behind Maxey and Edgecombe.

Dean Wade	29	5.8

Philadelphia, at least in term, committed to Wade this offseason, handing the forward a four-year, $39 million contract.

Labaron Philon	20	College

Philon joined the 76ers as their first-round pick in June, and the rookie averaged 18.5 points and 5.8 assists during summer league.

Dominick Barlow	23	7.7

Unless something goes awry, the 76ers won't need Barlow to start 59 games again. He'll instead provide a spark off the bench.

Ariel Hukporti	24	2.2

Hukporti, the Knicks' third center last year, signed a one-year deal after the title run and will compete with Aden Bona for the backup job.

Knicks

Projected starting five

Name	Age	'25-26 PPG
Jalen Brunson	29	26.0

The Knicks' quest to repeat will run through their captain, with Brunson helping the Knicks snap their 53-year championship drought and becoming one of the greatest players in franchise history.

Karl-Anthony Towns	30	20.1

Towns endured plenty of ebbs and flows during his first season in coach Mike Brown's system, but he made all of those growing pains an afterthought with his playoff performance.

OG Anunoby	29	16.7

Anunoby produced his forever moment with the tip-in to win Game 4 of the NBA Finals — and has continued to improve his game offensively.

Mikal Bridges	29	14.4

Bridges silenced any lingering doubts about whether he was worth five first-round picks during the Knicks' championship run, but now he'll be tasked with stretching that consistency across a full season.

Josh Hart	31	12.0

Always a double-double threat who's willing to fill just about any role, Hart, who enters his fourth full year with the Knicks, has become an integral piece of their success.

Bench

Miles McBride	25	12.0

He won't be a bargain for long, but McBride, a strong option off the bench, will spend 2026-27 on the final year of his three-year, $13 million deal.

Landry Shamet	29	9.3

After fighting through injuries and surviving a nonguaranteed deal, Shamet etched his place in Knicks lore with playoff contributions.

Andre Drummond	32	6.4

Drummond became the Knicks' Mitchell Robinson replacement at center behind Towns, leaving the 76ers for a one-year deal.

Jordan Clarkson	34	8.6

The former Sixth Man of the Year winner proved he's still capable of contributing.

Jose Alvarado	28	6.6

A feisty backup point guard capable of providing a jolt off the bench, Alvarado extended his homecoming with a three-year deal.

Jones eager to get Liberty on right track down stretch

STAR POWER

By MADELINE KENNEY

CHICAGO — Jonquel Jones initially showed restraint.

Inside a room filled with 10 other WNBA All-Stars and dozens of reporters, cameras and iPhones Friday morning, Jones indulged in a reporter wondering how highly the Liberty center views herself.

Jones "most definitely" believes she's one of the best basketball players in the world.

That's without question.

"Where would I put myself?" Jones pondered. "I don't think I can answer it."

Jones had an answer, though.

It was a matter of whether she wanted to vocalize it.

Saturday
WNBA ALL-STAR GAME
United Center, Chicago
8:30 p.m.
ABC

She repeated the question again: "Where would I put myself?"

Then, came her reply.

"I'd probably say top five," Jones said.

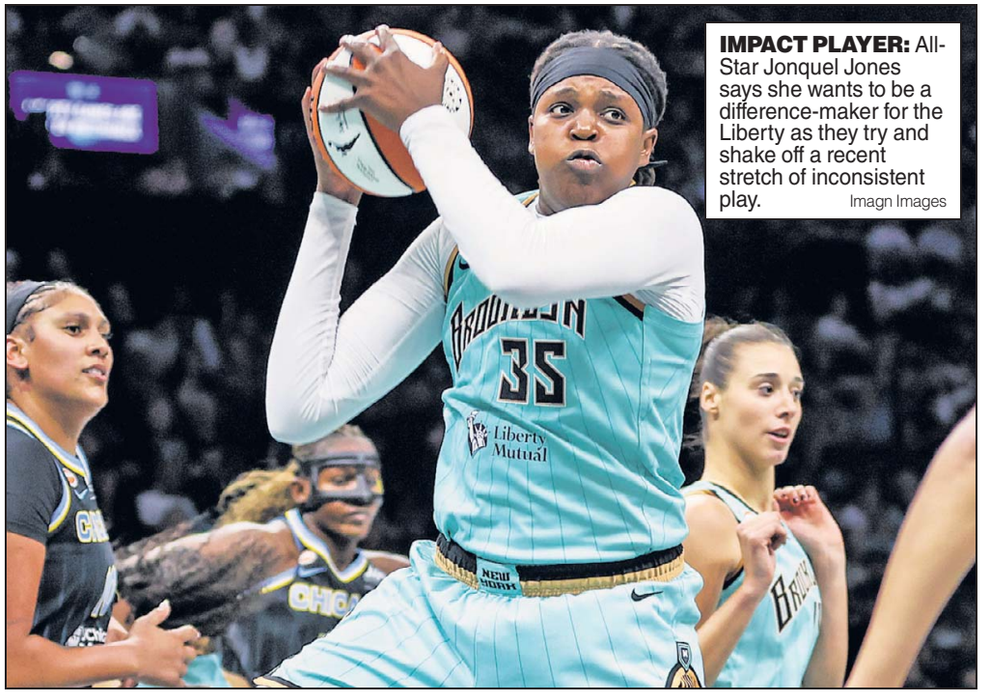
There it was.

Athletes don't make it to the level Jones has without an overwhelming abundance of confidence mixed with a dash of delusion.

But if the Liberty (15-12) are going to rewrite their season's narrative after the All-Star break, they don't just need Jones to believe she's one of the five best players in the world.

They need her to play like it night in and night out.

New York knows what it's getting out of the steady Breanna Stewart, who's building a case for MVP votes come October. Sabrina Ionescu has the ability to get hot at any minute, and she strains a defense whether the ball is in her hands or not.



IMPACT PLAYER: All-Star Jonquel Jones says she wants to be a difference-maker for the Liberty as they try and shake off a recent stretch of inconsistent play. Imagn Images

Jones, though, could be a catalyst for the Liberty's success in the latter part of their season.

When Jones is locked in at her best, everything changes.

Offensively, she forces you to make impossible decisions. Leave her alone on the perimeter and she'll knock down a 3-pointer. Switch a small defender onto her and she'll bury them in the paint. Send help and face the wrath of New York's collection of shooters.

Defensively, she can help clean up mistakes before it's too late. She has the power to control the glass and can eliminate second-chance opportunities.

Jones influences winning.

"JJ is huge for us as a team," Stewart said. "We just really are focused on making sure that every day we get better and when she's her best, we continue to kind of be our best ... When she's impactful on both ends, it's really hard for the other team to stop."

Jones has 11 double-doubles this season, including six in the past seven games. She's averaging the most points (14.8 per game) and rebounds (9.2) since her MVP season in 2021.

The Liberty don't need Jones to be just good. They need her to be the overwhelming force she's capable of being. And she said she's willing to do whatever it takes to win.

"I want to — not try to be the hero, but I want to make sure that I'm being the best teammate that I can be," Jones said. "That I'm playing as hard as possible for everybody else."

Jones attempted to diagnose the Liberty's issues Friday. She said when the team faces tough situations, "sometimes we go inward ... it looks like we're separating on the court.

"What we're trying to do now is do a better job of talking about the things that we're feeling on the court, talking about the things that we're seeing and not trying to figure it out ourselves," Jones said. "I think if we get out of being inward and be a little more outward, we'll be a better team."

Jones was indispensable during New York's 2024 run. She dominated the paint, collected offensive boards like Pokemon cards and punished defenses when they were preoccupied with other problems.

Jones was the variable in an equation that was too tough for opponents to solve.

Jones' willingness to rank herself among the game's elite was telling and meaningful. Not because it could make for a controversial quote or fuel online debate, but because the Liberty need that conviction to show up in every game for the rest of the season.

Fudd calls out Curry after easily winning 3-point contest

By MADELINE KENNEY

CHICAGO — There's a new 3-point champion in the WNBA.

Wings rookie Azzi Fudd recorded 30 points in the final round of Friday night's 3-point contest.

Moments after the win, Fudd said she would welcome the opportunity to go head-to-head against Warriors star Stephen Curry.

"Steph if you're listening, I've been trying to get a rematch since high school, so maybe this is a sign to pick a time and a place," Fudd said.

Sabrina Ionescu competed against Curry during the 2024 NBA All-Star festivities. He beat her by three points.

Fudd made 21 of her 27 attempts, including one of the moneyball shots. She beat out Fire forward Bridget Carleton who finished with 19.

"You say only missed six shots — that was like a lot," Fudd said. "I shouldn't [miss] more, but I was really nervous.

Fudd is the first rookie to win the event and her 30-point round was the highest-scoring performance by a first-year player.

Fudd will walk away with $70,000 in prize money.

Last year's champion, Ionescu, was noticeably absent from this year's contest.

Earlier this week, the Liberty guard refuted a report that she declined an offer to participate in the 3-point event, which she has won twice. Ionescu said she never received an official invite.

"I can't decline an offer I never got officially invited to," said Ionescu, who's spending her All-Star break in Southern California.

Ionescu is the all-time record holder for the highest score in the contest, which she set in 2023 with a breathtaking display of 37 points out of a possible 40. She won the contest again last year.

ALL-STAR GAME NOTES

➤ It's not every day that one gets picked up on defense by a former president.

But Liberty star **Jonquel Jones** found herself in that unique situation Friday morning when former **President Barack Obama** tried guarding her and almost successfully poked the ball free.

"He was playing good 'D'," Jones said Friday, "but I also went out last night, so I'm not in my best form right now."

➤ **Breanna Stewart** had jokes Friday.

Asked for her initial thoughts of hearing the LeBron James' free agency news, Stewart replied, "Oh, my God. LeBron to Brooklyn?"

"Nope, that didn't happen," the reporter replied.

Stewart continued, "I don't know if we were on the short list, but I think it's incredible."

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Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

You cannot back out of a commitment, because the time for that is past. If a joint venture is not going so well then the only solution is to look for ways to improve it. Start with your own attitude - how can you improve that?

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

What starts out as a trivial incident could grow rapidly into a situation where no one is willing to accept responsibility and no one is willing to back down. Your best course of action by far is to keep your distance. Run away if you have to!

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Neptune's influence in your opposite sign means you can be too easygoing where relationships are concerned, and as Saturn is now beginning its retrograde phase that could have major consequences. In a nutshell, you cannot afford to be so trusting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

There is only one sure way to resolve your current dilemma and that is by facing up to it and refusing to believe that everything in the garden is rosy. On the work front, especially, events seem to be building up to a serious showdown.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

It does not matter what the facts are and it does not matter what the experts say, you have made up your mind about something and have no intention of changing it. Others may mock your hard-headed attitude but you know you've got it right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Don't make threats unless you intend to carry them out. Better still, don't make threats at all. With your ruler Saturn beginning its retrograde phase this weekend some of the decisions you make could have the opposite effect to what you intended.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Cosmic activity in the area of your chart that governs social and travel plans is not looking great at the moment. That does not mean you must stay at home and lock all the doors but it does mean you need to be cautious. Don't overcommit yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

You can see the need to watch your spending but don't go too far and refuse to buy anything that is not a necessity. Treat yourself this weekend to something that you know will cheer you up, but only if the price is right.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)

The most important thing this weekend is that you are open to advice from both friends and family members. The planets warn if you refuse to listen to sensible suggestions you could make a silly mistake that takes a lot of putting right.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

An idea that comes to you out of the blue may appear to be the answer to your prayers, but you need to be wary because the planets warn not everything is what it seems. On the work front especially you would be wise not to commit yourself.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

If someone tries to tell you that you must not deviate from the accepted way of doing things then tell them to get lost. You have never been the sort to follow the herd and you are not about to start now. Your independence of mind is too strong.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

As Saturn begins its retrograde phase this weekend you must take extra care when making plans that could tie you down to one place or one particular career path. You must be flexible, because you don't know what the future will bring.

BIRTHDAY SATURDAY

You will find yourself at the center of events over the next 12 months and you must use the opportunity to stamp your mark on both your local community and the wider world. How can you make a difference? By getting involved.

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Saturday

Today: Mostly sunny and beautiful. High 79 to 85.

Tonight: Clear. Low 64 to 70.

Sunday

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny. High 80 to 86.

Tomorrow night: Clear to partly cloudy. Low 66 to 72.

Monday

A t-storm around. High 82 to 88.

Evening Showers around. Low 66 to 72.

Tuesday

A heavy t-storm. High 78 to 84.

Evening A stray t-storm. Low 68 to 74.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

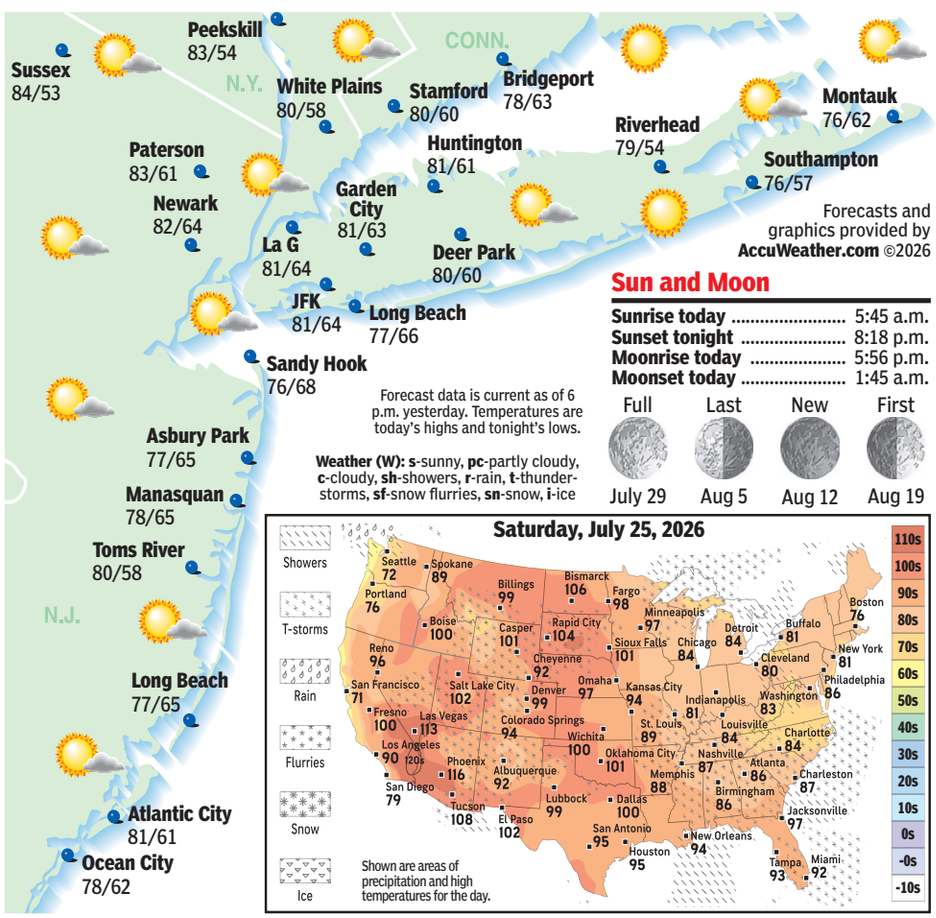
Temperature
High: 83, Low: 65, Mean: 74

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: -4 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 3.69", Year: 21.51", Normal year to date: 27.18"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 9
Total for the month (normal) 296 (302)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 696 (610)
Last year to date 661
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 80
UV index (for Sat.) ..... 10 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 39%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Grass, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sat.) .....Moderate



Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	5:45 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:18 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:56 p.m.
Moonset today	1:45 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
July 29	Aug 5	Aug 12	Aug 19

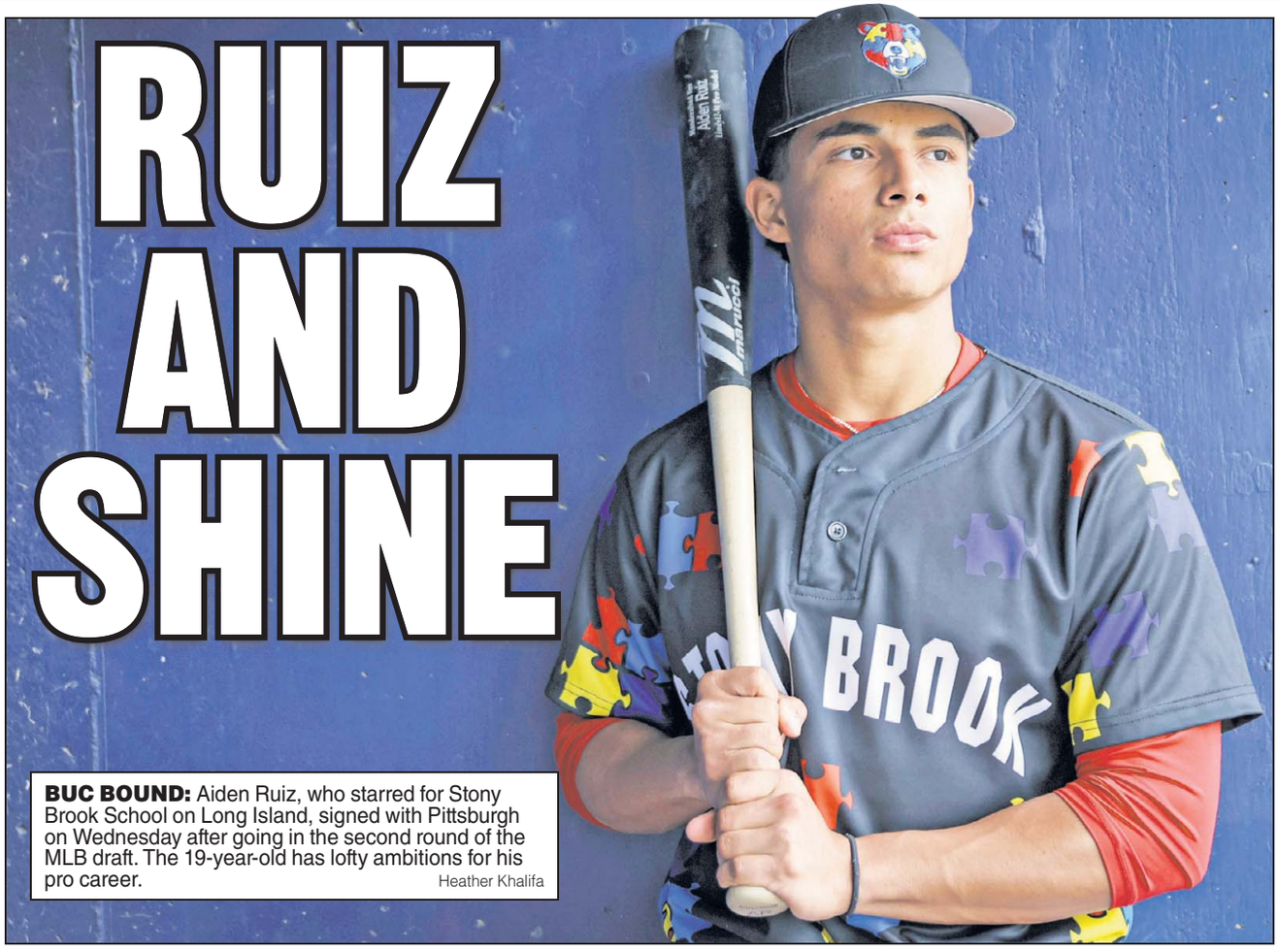
New York Tides

High Tide for	TODAY 1st	TODAY 2nd	TOMORROW 1st	TOMORROW 2nd
Coney Island	5:18a	5:44p	6:14a	6:33p
Fire Island	5:26a	6:04p	6:10a	6:47p
Hempstead	9:49a	9:59p	10:38a	10:43p
Huntington	9:27a	9:37p	10:18a	10:24p
Jones Inlet	5:02a	5:28p	5:58a	6:17p
Montauk Point	6:45a	7:14p	7:32a	7:59p
Port Washington	9:58a	10:08p	10:46a	10:52p
Sandy Hook	5:22a	5:48p	6:18a	6:37p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	86/58/s	87/63/pc
Danbury	80/54/s	82/59/s
Glens Falls	84/55/s	85/58/s
Gr Barrington	84/54/s	84/56/pc
Kingston	86/54/s	88/60/s
Liberty	81/53/s	82/56/pc
Monticello	81/53/s	80/58/pc
Newburgh	85/54/s	86/60/s
Poughkeepsie	84/55/s	84/59/s
Saratoga Springs	86/57/s	86/58/s
Stroudsburg	84/56/s	85/59/pc
Torrington	82/55/s	82/57/s
Syracuse	86/64/pc	85/64/t

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	83/63/r	86/67/s
Baghdad	113/87/s	111/90/s
Beijing	91/75/t	91/74/sh
Berlin	83/60/s	78/60/sh
Cairo	105/76/s	93/76/s
Dublin	69/57/c	67/54/sh
Geneva	86/63/t	79/61/sh
Hong Kong	93/79/pc	86/81/t
Jerusalem	89/72/s	84/67/s
Kabul	85/68/pc	87/69/pc
London	84/63/s	78/57/pc
Madrid	85/61/s	89/65/s
Mexico City	79/55/sh	75/55/sh
Montreal	85/65/s	85/67/pc
Moscow	70/58/pc	71/58/pc
Paris	87/61/pc	77/61/pc
Rio de Janeiro	74/68/c	75/66/s
Rome	88/76/s	87/74/t
Sydney	69/49/s	66/48/s
Tokyo	93/76/t	88/75/t

RUIZ AND SHINE



BUC BOUND: Aiden Ruiz, who starred for Stony Brook School on Long Island, signed with Pittsburgh on Wednesday after going in the second round of the MLB draft. The 19-year-old has lofty ambitions for his pro career. Heather Khalifa

Queens native inks Pirates deal to chase Lindor-sized dreams

By COLLIN WARD

If everything goes right, 10 years from now Aiden Ruiz hopes he will be "on a similar path as Francisco Lindor, a Hall of Fame shortstop."

The Queens, New York, native took a step toward that goal Wednesday, signing with the Pirates after they selected him in the second round of the MLB draft.

"My parents were crying, my siblings were crying. It's just something we all dreamed of for me," Ruiz told The Post about getting drafted.

"Everybody was all in, and there's no way I would have accomplished it without them."

Ruiz and his family grew up in New York after his late grandfather, Sandalio, left Puerto Rico for a new life.

It was there Sandalio shared his love of the game with his family, inspiring them all to pick up the bat at some point.

Ruiz's dad, Sam, played in the minor leagues and his brother for Division III Northern Ohio, while both his mom and sister played softball.

The 19-year-old said despite being a Mets fan, if his grandfather were there to see his name called, he would have thrown off his Amazin' hat to don the Pittsburgh black and yellow.

New York is also where Ruiz played for Stony Brook School on Long Island, slashing .403/.547/.625 with six doubles, two triples, two home runs, 17 RBIs, 21 walks and 23 stolen bases on his way to a NYSAIS state championship his senior year.

His impressive play led to a commitment to Vanderbilt, which he will pass up on in favor of joining the Pirates system.

The shortstop said playing in New York "put a chip on [his] shoulder" and added grit to his game because "Northeast players are not found enough."

Living in the baseball-crazed city gave him the chance to watch legendary players take the field for the Mets and Yankees every summer as well.

One of those superstars, Lindor, is now his mentor.

The two are represented by the same agency and train together in the summer at Lindor's former Florida high school, Montverde Academy.

Ruiz said they talk a lot about fielding, something that has helped the shortstop play "future Gold Glove-caliber defense," according to MLB.com.

Now signed with the Pirates, the 19-year-old has added a few more mentors in the form of teammates.

Notably, Konnor Griffin, the 20-year-old shortstop and former No. 1 overall selection in 2024, already has met with Ruiz.

Though they play the same position, Ruiz doesn't see their relationship as a competition and is just focused on perfecting his own game.

"What separates Konnor Griffin from other kids that are his age is knowing that you belong there, seeing his confidence and the way he walks, the way he talks," Ruiz said.

If given the chance, Ruiz added he would play anywhere for the Pirates, as long as he can help add to the "winning culture" and learn from the veterans on the team.

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Phillies' Wheeler sees bright future for young Mets

By DAN MARTIN

PHILADELPHIA — It's hard to believe there's much hope for the last-place Mets these days, but maybe there are some signs of hope in Queens.

Zack Wheeler knows the Mets better than most, as a player who spent the first seven seasons of his major league career with them and now as an opponent who's been in the same division for the past seven years.

Asked why his former organization can't seem to get itself together, Wheeler paused.

"I feel like some years they've had the starting pitching, but not a full lineup," Wheeler said Friday at Citizens Bank Park. "Some years it's been a better lineup, but not a strong rotation. There's just a lot of inconsistency. It's tough to narrow it down to one thing."

But the 36-year-old added there is potential cause for optimism, even in this lost season.

"They're going to be good, I think," Wheeler said of the Mets. "Some of the young players we play against right now can swing the bat."

The rest of this season, clearly, is about the development of A.J. Ewing and Carson Benge, the pair of rookie outfielders that have at least shown progress.

Speaking of the duo, Wheeler said, "They have a good approach, but [they] have to keep doing what they're doing. We'll make adjustments as pitchers. It's up to them to adjust back or else they're going to struggle. It's about more than this year, but if they keep it up — especially with [Juan] Soto there for the long run — they could have something."

It's hard to see at this point, especially considering the Mets and Phillies had identical 9-19 records on April 26 and the Phillies are now in playoff contention while the Mets are in sell-mode as the Aug. 3 trade deadline approaches.

Wheeler's return to the Phillies' rotation helped spark their turnaround, as he's 10-2 with a 2.16 ERA.

With this year's Mets, there has also been praise from around the league about the development of some young starters such as Nolan McLean and Christian Scott and — more recently — Zac Thornton.

As Wheeler noted, it might take president of baseball operations David Stearns and his crew a while to build a winner.

"It takes time and guys have got to stay healthy," Wheeler said. "But they have some pieces."

As for Wheeler, whose career blossomed in his final two seasons with the Mets and continued after his signing with Philadelphia, he still has good memories of his time as a Met.

"I loved my time there," Wheeler said. "I really did. Things could get hard there and sometimes it was a little up and down, but the fans, the organization, the players and staff were awesome."

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Tucker lauds Mets, but says L.A. was right choice

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Kyle Tucker hammered the Mets, then said nice things about them.

The slumping slugger, whom the Mets went after in free agency, homered and had two hits in the Dodgers' 4-2 win at Citi Field on Friday night.

"They're great people over there. I had [Troy Snitker], their hitting coach, when I was in Houston. A few familiar faces over there," Tucker said when asked about the Mets' pursuit in the winter. "I think they have some really good players. Hasn't necessarily worked out how they had hoped or wanted to have the season go, but it kind of happens sometimes.

"It's always a tough decision, trying to figure out where to go. I just felt comfortable coming out to LA. Everything's been great since."

Tucker wound up signing a four-year, $240 million contract with the Dodgers, $20 million more than the Mets offered.

METS NOTES

➤ Posturing or an indication the Mets are planning to keep their catchers?

In his press conference Friday, president of baseball operations **David Stearns** was asked about **Francisco Alvarez** and **Luis Torrens** being involved in potential trades.

"Without commenting on any specific player or approach to any specific player, catching is really important," he said. "We're very fortunate to have two really good ones."

The Post's Jon Heyman has reported that the Mets are willing to move the 24-year-old Alvarez for the right price. Alvarez and Torrens are under team control beyond this season.

➤ Ahead of his Hall of Fame induction this weekend, **Carlos Beltrán** revealed that Mets officials talked to him about managing the team after firing **Carlos Mendoza**, but he declined the opportunity.

"I love having Carlos as a special assistant, he does a great job," Stearns said. "I'm really excited for him and his family about what they're about to experience this weekend."

➤ Former Mets closer **Edwin Díaz** missed his new team's return to his old home. He is on a rehabilitation assignment after undergoing arthroscopic surgery to remove loose bodies from his right elbow. ... **Carson Benge** became the first Mets rookie outfielder with two assists since **Juan Lagares** in 2013. ... Actress **Emma Stone** was in the Mets dugout during batting practice to film a scene for her movie, "The Catch."

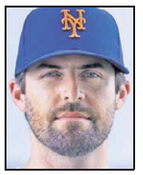
Holmes keeping focus on pitching, not rumors

By MOLLIE WALKER

Clay Holmes is on the cusp of returning to the mound, but the chances of it being for the Mets seem slim.

That fact is not lost on Holmes, who addressed the looming Aug. 3 trade deadline on Friday after his first minor league rehab start for Triple-A Syracuse. In addition to recovering from a fractured right fibula over the past two-plus months, the veteran pitcher has also had to come to terms with the possibility of playing for a different team by the time he is fully healed.

"It's different, for sure," he said before the Mets opened a 10-game homestand against the Dodgers. "It's just a unique scenario. I think the timing of just this injury, just the unforeseen kind of circumstances are with the team. I think all that together has just put together a very unique, weird scenario here. Sometimes it's easy to let your mind wander, and there's a lot of things out there that you can't really control. You do know that there'll be some impact on your future, but I think just as an athlete, especially me right now, I want to be pitching my best, whether that's here or somewhere else these last two months.



CLAY HOLMES

"I just need to really be locked in on just the things I can do, things I can do on the mound, and hopefully the other things take care of themselves."

Asked if extension talks between the Mets and his agent ever went anywhere, Holmes said he didn't think "there was a ton there."

The 33-year-old has a $12 million player option for 2027 and is widely expected to decline in order to enter free agency this upcoming winter. Considering Holmes is one of the few bright spots on the team, the Mets certainly recognize him as one of their top trade chips.

Holmes posted a 2.39 ERA over nine starts and 52 ⅔ innings before getting struck by a comebacker on May 15. In his rehab start on Thursday against the RailRiders, Holmes gave up two runs on three hits, walked two batters and struck out two over 2 ⅓ innings. He threw 28 strikes over his 51 total pitches.

According to Holmes, the recovery process was pretty seamless. He said he met all the timelines that were set before him and felt like there were "no huge roadblocks" at any point.

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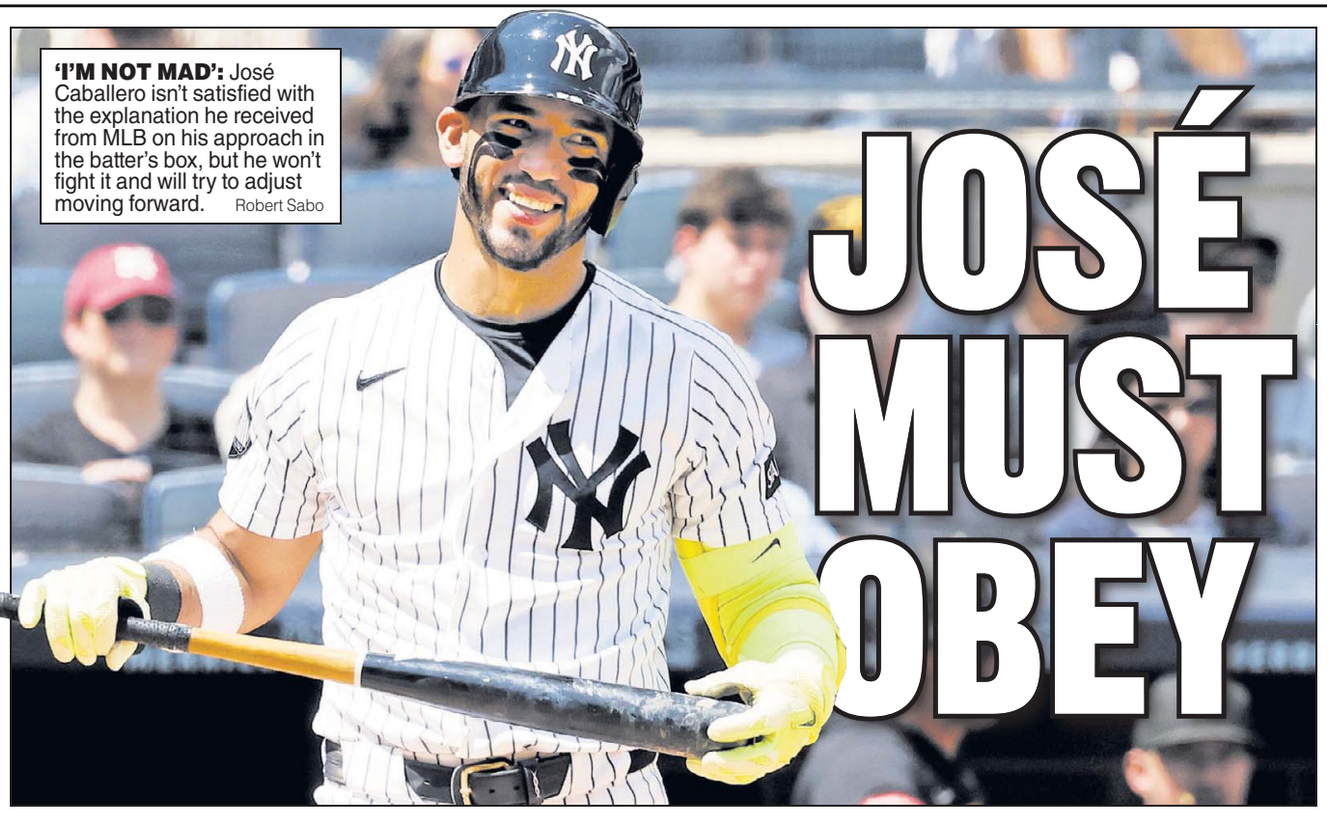

'I'M NOT MAD': José Caballero isn't satisfied with the explanation he received from MLB on his approach in the batter's box, but he won't fight it and will try to adjust moving forward. Robert Sabo

JOSÉ MUST OBEY

Caballero says it's up to him to adjust to pitch clock rules

By GREG JOYCE

PHILADELPHIA — José Caballero insists he is not mad.

His reaction the last few days to the league tweaking its pitch clock rules (or interpretations) in response to his season-long routine in the batter's box would suggest otherwise, but even after an off day Thursday, the Yankees utilityman said he was still lacking clarity on what he could and could not do.

"I'm not mad at anyone," Caballero said Friday before going 0-for-3 in the Yankees' 1-0 win over the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park. "I just want to be a baseball player."

Pitch clock rules state that a batter must be in the box and alert to the pitcher by the time there are eight seconds left on the clock. Caballero did that Wednesday (he was actually alert at nine seconds) but was still hit with a pitch-clock violation because, as he has done all season, he spent the seconds before the eight-second mark in the box but looking down until the last possible second.

Unbeknownst to Caballero and the Yankees, MLB decided to crack down on his tactics beginning Wednesday, restricting hitters from attempting "to deceive a pitcher into beginning their windup or coming to the set position."

Caballero, though, does not see it as deception but rather his routine, which meant entering Friday's game against the Phillies — he did not play the nightcap of Wednesday's doubleheader — he was still trying to figure out a new routine in the batter's box.

"I have to see from when I get in the box," Caballero said. "We'll see."

On Friday, Caballero seemed to be a mix of despondent and still ticked off as he discussed his new reality. His first four answers to questions on the subject were all one word. He had a brief conversation with the league between Wednesday's games — he said Mike Hill, MLB's senior vice president of on-field operations, was on the phone and then passed it to "someone else" — but it only lasted a few minutes and clearly was not satisfactory, in his view.

Caballero indicated again that he felt like he is getting picked on, but that he would not continue trying to push the issue.

"They [the league] are above and they control everything," Caballero said. "We ain't figuring this out. They say what they had to say. They're the league, they control [things]. I just have to obey."

Aaron Boone said he has also had multiple conversations with Hill about the issue — as he has all season — and indicated they "have to be" OK with where things stood as of Friday.

Asked if it was worth Caballero continuing to push the issue, Boone pushed back.

"Worth what?" Boone said. "Worth having a routine and getting in there and being alert at nine seconds? I mean, I've heard the thing of, 'He's the only one that does it.' Every hitter is the only one that does something. At the end of the day, they decide the rules. We have to try to comply with them, which we certainly have done, but obviously there needs to be some kind of adjustment, so we'll do that.

"At the end of the day, it's about going out there and playing and being productive. That's what we're trying to do."

To that end, aside from all the back-and-forth with his routine in the box, Caballero has not been productive consistently enough with the bat. Over his last 25 games entering Friday, he was hitting just .193 with a .549 OPS, part of the reason (along with struggles from fellow shortstop Anthony Volpe) why the calls for top prospect George Lombard Jr. have only grown louder in recent days.

"Kind of up and down," Boone said of Caballero's at-bats over the past month. "He's had some big at-bats. ... I think as a group, we've all gone through it a little bit where everyone's probably capable of a little bit more. We've kind of all gone through it a little bit together. As a result, as a team over the last month, we haven't been as good as we expect offensively. We all need to get going a little bit more."

But Boone did not sound worried about Caballero losing his edge because of the new rule interpretation.

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'Electric' Headrick continues to be lights-out arm

By GREG JOYCE

PHILADELPHIA — Cam Schlittler and Ben Rice have been the most valuable Yankees this season.

But Brent Headrick might not be far behind.

Despite not being quite as sharp as he usually has been this season, the lefty reliever came through in the clutch again Friday night to escape a bases-loaded jam in the eighth inning and preserve a 1-0 win over the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park.

All it took was retiring one of the most fearsome hitters in the game, Kyle Schwarber, on a 3-2 count with two outs and the tying run on third base.

"He's electric," said Schlittler, who pitched into the eighth inning. "He's saved me plenty of times this season. ... Doesn't sometimes get the credit he deserves, but he's been amazing."

Headrick, who has not allowed a run in a major league-best 44 of his 52 appearances this season, entered with runners on first and second with one out. He got some help from right fielder Jasson Domínguez and left fielder Cody Bellinger on strong throws home — Domínguez's on a single that loaded the bases and Bellinger's on Trea Turner's line out — forcing the Phillies to hold J.T. Realmuto at third.

Headrick then entered a full count against Schwarber — with some key blocks on balls in the dirt from catcher Ali Sánchez — before throwing a 95 mph fastball at the bottom of the zone that generated a chopper to second base for the third out.

"Just throw my best stuff and trust it," Headrick said. "That's what you prep for. You love to be in those situations. Any time my name's called, I'm going to pitch and give everything I have."

It made for a tense moment with zero margin for error, but in the process, Headrick lowered his ERA to 1.38, continuing to be a godsend for a bullpen that needed more trustworthy arms.

"I think he's been on the short list of guys that have been the best in the game, that aren't the full-time closer or whatever," Boone said.

YANKEES NOTES

➤ Boone, a longtime 76ers fan, was among those excited Friday about **LeBron James** announcing he was signing in Philadelphia.

"Looks like they got a pretty good starting five in the mix," Boone said with a big grin. "The East is getting interesting."

Boone's 76ers fandom stems from spending part of his childhood growing up here while his dad, Bob, was playing for the Phillies.

➤ **Carlos Rodón** (left elbow inflammation) is set to throw a "two-up" bullpen session Saturday — throwing a handful of pitches, sitting down and then getting back up for the equivalent of another inning — with about 35 pitches in total. If he gets through that session without issue, he should advance to facing hitters by next week.

Boone said he still has "no idea" when Rodón might be ready to return to the rotation, though at this rate he will almost certainly need to go on a rehab assignment.

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Soto exits early with bum calf, 'likely' to get MRI

CAN'T CATCH A BREAK: Juan Soto left midway through the sixth inning of Friday's loss to the Dodgers with "left calf soreness." He missed 15 games in April with an issue with his right calf. Getty Images

By MOLLIE WALKER

The Mets may have another Juan Soto injury concern on their hands.

Soto left Friday's 4-2 loss to the Dodgers midway through the sixth inning due to what the Mets described as "left calf soreness." It's just the latest injury scare for Soto, who has been sidelined in each of the past three months for at least some period of time.

"He just had a recurrence of symptoms in the left calf," interim manager Andy Green said after Kyle Tucker's two-run homer in the eighth inning helped close the game out for Los Angeles. "Certainly hoped we were behind it, done talking about this, but he felt it pushing off on second base there when he was on the bases. At this point, we'll likely get an image [Saturday] and try to see where he's at.

"This is nagging him for a week now, so I know it's frustrating for him, frustrating for us."

Before leaving in the middle of a 1-1 game at Citi Field, Soto had walked twice. Jorge Polanco ultimately replaced him in the lineup and struck out twice.

The Mets' $765 million dollar man has not been able to catch a break this season on the injury front.

In April, Soto missed 15 games after he was placed on the 10-day injured list with a right calf issue.

He later experienced back soreness in June that forced him to exit a game against the Cubs and kept him out of the subsequent one. At the time, Soto's back locked up on him and he was classified as day to day.

The 27-year-old also left a game against the Phillies earlier this month due to mild left calf cramping/soreness.

The Mets have had to manage their star player's workload for a majority of this lost 2026 season. Prior to this season, however, Soto had not been on the injured list since 2021.

As recently as earlier this week in the series finale against the Brewers, Soto sat out to rest a minor lingering issue with his left calf.

Green said he wanted to give Soto 48 hours "to get the calf thing completely behind him."

Evidently, the calf injury is still nagging Soto. The Mets will have to wait and see just how serious it is.

"I think any time you get an image, you're concerned," Green said. "Concerned enough to go do it. We'll wait until [Saturday] and figure out what we're dealing with."

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ON DECK: vs. Dodgers

Saturday, 4:15 p.m., Fox, 570 AM

RHP Nolan McLean

2026 stats: 7-6, 3.34 ERA
Career vs. LAD: 0-0, 1.29 ERA
Last start: Sun., at PHI; 6.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

34%	20%	16%
Sinker	4-Seamer	Sweeper

RHP Yoshinobu Yamamoto

2026 stats: 10-6, 2.78 ERA
Career vs. NYM: 0-0, 2.63 ERA
Last start: Sun., at NYY; 9.0 IP, 4 H, 2 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

27%	27%	14%
Split	4-Seamer	Cutter

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: vs. Dodgers, 10:40 a.m., SNLA, 570 AM
RHP Freddy Peralta vs. RHP Emmet Sheehan

MONDAY: vs. Braves, 4:10 p.m.
RHP Christian Scott vs. LHP Chris Sale

INJURY REPORT

■ **Clay Holmes** said he felt ready to compete just over two months since fracturing his right fibula, but interim Mets manager Andy Greene said the team still needs to get together to figure out the next steps for the righty.

BAT'S

EMBARRASSING

Spiraling Mets muster mere four hits in dismal loss to MLB-best Dodgers

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Hopefully, the plot to the movie "The Catch" being filmed at Citi Field on Friday isn't as predictable as the game that was played.

That went as everyone in the ballpark, a crowd of 35,338, would've expected.

DODGERS	4
METS	2

Boxscore Page 30

The Dodgers spotted the Mets an early lead, then did what they so often do: win convincingly.

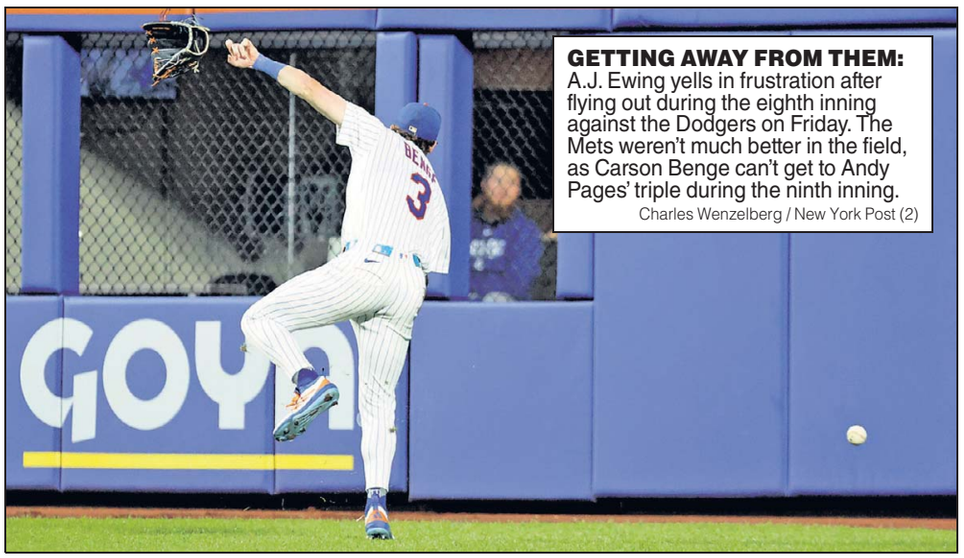
The Mets countered by not hitting — a season-long theme — in another loss, 4-2 to the heavy favorites to win it all again. The Mets lost Juan Soto to his nagging sore left calf after two at-bats and received two solo home runs by Luis Robert Jr. and Francisco Alvarez, and little else.

In a season full of similarly punchless performances, this latest one was merely a sidenote ahead of the Aug. 3 trade deadline, in which the Mets are expected to be sellers. Who goes and who they bring back in return, is the lone remaining question in this lost season.

Freddie Freeman, the Mets' longtime tormenter, had three hits and a surprising stolen base. Previously struggling right-hander Roki Sasaki was brilliant, because so many pitchers are when facing these Mets, tossing seven innings of one-run, nine-strikeout ball.

"We talked about it before the game: If you chase him beneath the zone, you're going to be in trouble, and we did that a lot," interim manager Andy Green said. "Now, it's one thing to say don't do that, it's another thing to pick up his split-finger and see the pitch. We had a hard time with that tonight.

"You're probably not going to beat one of the best teams in baseball by scoring two runs. It's just really hard to beat them like that. We have to put more runs on the board and stay in the strike zone."



GETTING AWAY FROM THEM: A.J. Ewing yells in frustration after flying out during the eighth inning against the Dodgers on Friday. The Mets weren't much better in the field, as Carson Benge can't get to Andy Pages' triple during the ninth inning.
Charles Wenzelberg / New York Post (2)

To add salt into the wound, struggling slugger Kyle Tucker — the $60 million per year outfielder who spurned the Mets for the Dodgers in the offseason — put the game away with a two-run homer in the eighth. It elicited one of many rounds of "Let's go Dodgers" chants, a reminder of how far the Mets have fallen in the last year-plus.

The Mets' big offseason additions, Jorge Polanco, Marcus Semien, Bo Bichette and Robert, went a combined 1-for-12 with six strikeouts. And the team's strength, their bullpen, struggled in allowing three runs in the seventh and eighth innings. The Mets find themselves a season-low 18 games under .500 at 43-61.

In 2024, the Mets reached the NLCS, losing to the eventual World Series champion Dodgers in six games. That offseason, they added Soto. But very little has gone right since.

The Mets blew a playoff spot a year ago with second-half tailspin and they have been a disaster this season, looking every bit like a 95-loss team. They are going to be major sellers at the upcoming trade deadline, and president of baseball operations David Stearns wouldn't rule out trading one of their cornerstone players, shortstop Francisco Lindor, although it does seem unlikely given Lindor's large contract and uneven season.

"The season didn't go as we anticipated. It's extremely disappointing," Stearns said Friday before the Mets kicked off a 10-game homestand. "I am extremely disappointed that we are in this situation, but I'm also very aware we are in this situation and it's my job to do what's in the best interest of the organization."

When owner Steve Cohen took over the franchise five years ago, his goal was to turn the Mets into an East Coast version of the Dodgers. That obviously hasn't happened. On the bright side, at least once a year Queens gets to see what the actual Dodgers look like.

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More Mets / P. 40, 41

Without naming names, Stearns hints at Lindor's future

By ZACH BRAZILLER

This wasn't a guarantee that Francisco Lindor will remain a Met past the Aug. 3 trade deadline, but David Stearns didn't suggest the shortstop will be elsewhere, either.

The team's president of baseball operations met the media ahead of a 10-game homestand that kicked off with a 4-2 loss to the Dodgers on Friday, and in his 18-minute briefing was peppered with questions about his plans to sell off assets.

One of those pieces could potentially be the 32-year-old Lindor, a five-time All-Star who has struggled during an injury-riddled season.

"I'm not going to rule out or in any specific player on anything," Stearns said. "I don't think that's wise for me to do. What I will say is, we've got a group of young players and we've got some potential Hall of Famers, future Hall of Famers, that we view as our core. We expect them to be our core."

It has been reported that the Mets are willing to listen on Lindor, although actually dealing him is another matter. He is in the fifth year of a 10-year, $341 million contract. Owner Steve Cohen admitted recently during an appearance on "The Show," The Post's podcast with Joel Sherman and Jon Heyman, that Lindor and Juan Soto didn't get along a year ago in their first season as teammates, but that relationship has improved.

Perhaps the biggest thing standing in the way of a Lindor trade is that the Mets, according to both Cohen and Stearns, are trying to win next year. This isn't a complete teardown. They wouldn't be better without him, barring an incredible return. Lindor also has no-trade rights as a 10-and-5 player.

Lindor — who was 0-for-4 on Friday — recently broached the subject.

"It doesn't bother me when it's coming from outside sources. When it's more inside, that would bother me. But that's not happening," he said. "I try to stay away from it. I try not to read it or really talk about it. It's just an unnecessary distraction. But I am human. I have a family and they all talk and they all hear it. But since it's not happening in here, it's OK."

It has been a difficult season for Lindor. He has been shaky defensively and was slashing an underwhelming .233/.315/.398 with a .712 OPS entering play Friday. He also has dealt with an assortment of injuries. He has appeared in 47 of the Mets' 104 games.

Stearns was asked if he considers Lindor part of the core he mentioned and declined to say, though it seems clear that the two future Hall of Famers he referred to are Soto and Lindor.

"What I said was we have a group of young players who we're really excited about," he said. "We have a core of guys who are likely headed to Cooperstown one day, and we would consider that group of players our core. I'm not going to get into specifics of who exactly they are, who we're not going to trade right now."

Volpe's focus on his job with Lombard near

By DAN MARTIN

PHILADELPHIA — Anthony Volpe was back in the lineup at shortstop for the Yankees on Friday against the Phillies, but there's just as much interest in the starting shortstop at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Top prospect George Lombard Jr. was in the leadoff spot after being used only as a pinch-runner for SWB on Thursday.

And with the Yankees without an everyday starting shortstop, questions will continue about the spot.

Asked Friday about the uncertainty surrounding the position — both with battling for time with José Caballero and knowing Lombard is on the team's radar — Volpe said, "It's not my job to be concerned with that. I'm here to help the team win. I'm ready to go every day to help the team."

That includes, Volpe said, staying in touch with Lombard, who he played with at SWB while Volpe was rehabbing from offseason shoulder surgery and again when he was optioned to Triple-A once it ended.

"He's doing well," said Volpe, who went 0-for-3 in a 1-0 Yankees win on Friday. "I've talked to him a little bit, like I would with anyone else."

Lombard, though, is not just somebody else.

Since coming back from an IL stint because of sprained fingers, Lombard has played well.

Entering Friday, in four games with SWB since his injury, Lombard was 9-for-17 with four extra-base hits.

Interestingly, Aaron Boone has not shied away from addressing Lombard in recent weeks as the 21-year-old plays his way into the conversation for a spot on the major league roster.

Before the Yankees opened a series against the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park, the manager noted that in addition to the superb defense Lombard has displayed since being drafted by the organization, he's more recently developed physically and at the plate.

"He's improved a lot offensively," Boone said.

After pointing out how Lombard controls the strike zone and has "some power," Boone spoke twice about his "hit-abilty."

A National League scout who's seen Lombard since his return from the IL agreed.

"He's smarter up there and knows his strengths," the scout said. "It's what you want to see from a player with that much skill and that good of a work ethic."

"He's playing really well now," Boone said. "Especially coming off the injury. ... He's come back and it seems like he hasn't missed a beat. His performance has been excellent. He brings a lot of things to the table."

The next question, which only the Yankees can answer, is if he's ready to contribute to their playoff push this season.

He began this year at Double-A Somerset, having played two full minor league seasons out of high school.

And Lombard has played just 48 games at the Triple-A level.

As Boone said, he's put "himself in the conversation."

Asked what else the organization would need to see before calling him up, Boone said, "I don't know. He's done a great job. We'll see."

More Yankees / Page 42

CAM'T

By GREG JOYCE

YANKEES 1
PHILLIES 0

Boxscore Page 30

PHILADELPHIA — Cam Schlittler took the mound Friday night coming off one of the more frustrating starts of his season.

By the end of the night, he had successfully transferred that frustration into the helpless hands of the Phillies lineup, and dissipated whatever his own struggling offense might have been feeling if he had not.

On yet another night when the Yankees pitching staff had a razor-thin margin for error because of a lack of run support, Schlittler dominated the Phillies, tossing 7 1/3 shutout innings and striking out 12 on the way to a 1-0 win at a sold-out Citizens Bank Park.

Brent Headrick retired Kyle Schwarber to escape a bases-loaded jam in the eighth inning before David Bednar slammed the door shut in the ninth with his 19th straight scoreless appearance.

"That's about as well-pitched a game as you're going to see, both sides," manager Aaron Boone said. "Cam, obviously he's been massive for us. [Headrick] gets a couple big outs with some good defense behind him and we're able to hang on."

Paul Goldschmidt swatted a solo home run against Jesús Luzardo in the fourth inning, the only run the Yankees (58-45) mustered in seven innings against the Phillies lefty, who scattered three hits and one walk while striking out nine. Thanks to Schlittler and Co., it was enough to lift the Yankees to their eighth win in the last 11 games.

"Especially these last few weeks when we haven't been scoring, we've had to win some low-scoring

IT'S A GONER: Paul Goldschmidt hits a home run that stands as the winning run in a 1-0 victory over the Phillies.

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

TOUCH THIS!

Schlittler bounces back from dud to blank powerful Phillies with 12 strikeouts

BACK IN BUSINESS: Cam Schlittler gets pumped up after recording one of his 12 strikeouts in a 1-0 gem in Philadelphia on Friday night.
Imagn Images (3)

games and there's a lot of pressure on the starting pitcher and the bullpen guys," Goldschmidt said. "It's not what we want, but they've done a great job picking us up as an offense. Hopefully we can play better offensively, but most importantly, just finding ways to win."

His last time out Sunday against the Dodgers, Schlittler didn't make it out of the fifth inning as a tough lineup drove his pitch count up to 98 across 4 ⅓ innings. But on Friday, he threw one more pitch and recorded nine more outs, finding put-away pitches earlier in counts to allow him to pitch deep into the game.

This was much more like the Schlittler the Yankees have become accustomed to seeing all season, as the budding ace recorded his sixth scoreless outing in 22 starts while lowering his ERA to 2.07.

"They got a great lineup," said Schlittler, who recorded double-digit strikeouts for the third time in his career (including playoffs), all of which have come with no walks. "They're going to make you battle and you've got to make the right pitches. When you don't, you're going to get tagged for that. Just trying to stay locked in and make sure I'm executing."

Schlittler cruised into the eighth inning and struck out the first batter before giving up a single to J.T. Realmuto through the left side. His next pitch was a cutter that just barely grazed the back knee of Gabriel Rincones Jr., at which point Boone pulled him for Headrick.

The lefty reliever, in the midst of a breakout year, allowed a single to pinch hitter Edmundo Sosa, but Realmuto was held at third base as right fielder Jasson Domínguez got off a strong one-hop throw to the plate.

Headrick then got Treat Turner to line out to left field, too shallow for the Phillies (56-48) to test Cody Bellinger's strong arm, before Schwarber grounded out in a full count. The normally reserved Headrick was fired up as he came off the mound, quieting the crowd of 43,165 that was on its feet.

"Cam threw a hell of a game and my job is to come in and keep it at zero," said Headrick, who has not allowed a run in a major league-leading 44 of his 52 appearances this season. "When you do that and come in and pick up a guy like that who had an incredible day, I think it's really good for us and the team. Being able to get that win was big."

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Goldie saves struggling bats with lone HR

By DAN MARTIN

PHILADELPHIA — Since June 18, only the Mariners have scored fewer runs than the Yankees and this past week has been especially rough, with the Yankees putting up more than three runs just once in their last seven games.

That includes Friday night's 1-0 win over the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park, when Paul Goldschmidt provided the game's only run with a leadoff homer in the top of the fourth.

And even in victory, Goldschmidt acknowledged the lineup's issues.

"We haven't performed up to the level we think we're capable of and would like to," Goldschmidt said. "We need to do better than we did tonight. Give [Philadelphia lefty Jesús] Luzardo and their bullpen credit. We're trying to do everything we can. The results definitely, offensively, have not been there the last few weeks and we know that. Guys are working on it in the cage, talking about it as a group and making adjustments individually and as a group. We're not content with how we've played."

It's likely easier to make such admissions after a win — and the Yankees have won four of their last five after another gem by Cam Schlittler in Philadelphia.

But as the Yankees await — they hope — Aaron Judge's return from a fractured rib, they know they can't put such a heavy burden on their pitching staff, as Schlittler, Brent Headrick and David Bednar were given no margin for error.

"Everyone is capable of a little more," Aaron Boone said before the game. "We're all going through it a little bit together. As a result, as a team over the last month, we haven't been as good as we expect offensively. We all need to get going more."

The evidence is there, as the Yankees have gone consecutive games without a homer twice in their last eight games.

The last time that happened even once was May 30-31.

They've been held to six or fewer hits in three straight games, with just three on Friday: Goldschmidt's home run and a pair of singles.

The issues with the offense picked up less than three weeks after Judge was sidelined by the fractured rib, as players naturally started to expand the zone in an unconscious effort to make up for the slugger's absence.

It hasn't worked and it's helped result in the team striking out a dozen times in two of the last three games.

Goldschmidt, who's been thrust into a larger role than anyone expected with the absence of Judge and Giancarlo Stanton, has slumped of late.

He entered Friday in an 8-for-63 rut, with just two doubles and a homer in his previous 19 games — striking out 24 times in that stretch.

But he was able to get a 2-0 sinker that didn't dip enough and hit an opposite-field shot to right.

"You've got to keep going," Goldschmidt said. "Every time you step in the box, you've got to stay confident."

On Friday, that one swing enabled the Yankees to win.

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Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

INJURY REPORT

- **Carlos Rodón** (left elbow inflammation) will throw a "two-up" bullpen session Saturday with about 35 pitches. If he gets through that without issue, he should advance to a live batting practice session next week.
- **Clarke Schmidt** (Tommy John surgery rehab) is scheduled to face hitters for the second time Sunday in another simulated inning.

ON DECK

at Phillies
Saturday, 6:05 p.m., YES WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

LHP Ryan Weathers

2026 stats: 3-7, 4.40 ERA
Career vs. PHI: 0-3, 9.53 ERA
Last start: Mon., vs. PIT; 4.2 IP, 7 H, 5 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

26%	24%	20%
4-Seamer	Changeup	Sweeper

TBD

2026 stats: —
Career vs. NYY: —
Last start: —

PITCH BREAKDOWN

–%	–%	–%
–	–	–

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: at Phillies, 7:20 p.m., NBC, WFAN
RHP Will Warren vs. LHP Cristopher Sánchez
MONDAY: at White Sox, 7:40 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

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LeBRON'S PHILLY SURPRISE

PHILLY SPECIAL

LeBron signs with Sixers in hopes of one last chance at championship

By KHOBI PRICE

LeBron James' tenure with the Lakers concluded at the end of June without certainty about where he'll play next.

Now, his next destination is known.

The league's all-time leading scorer is leaving the Lakers to sign with the 76ers after spending eight years in Southern California.

He reportedly is signing a two-year, $8 million deal that also features a player option, per ESPN.

"I thought I was done when the season ended. I wasn't ready to announce it, and I knew I needed some time to really decide, but I was pretty sure I played my last game. I was honest at that last press conference when I said I needed to look at myself and decide if I still love this game," James tweeted Friday morning. "I still truly love this game, and I have more to give. The last few weeks have really been special. I've never been able to have no clue what to do and take real time to just think.

"I've had an incredible few months with all the people I love trying to figure it all out. This is my last decision. I'm not going for money. I'm not going for family. What am I really playing for at this point? I still want to sacrifice. I still want to work. I still want to grind. I still want to compete, to win and to have a chance at the feeling of winning another championship. I believe I can help make the Philadelphia 76ers a championship team and I am so excited to energize a new fanbase and start this incredible journey one last time. Thank you LA. Miami I'll forever love and Northeast Ohio will always be home!"

James' decision as an unrestricted free agent ends his longest consecutive tenure with a franchise, with his eight straight seasons with the Lakers outlasting the first seven seasons of his NBA career he spent with the Cavaliers.

He'll join a Sixers team that acquired 2024 NBA Finals MVP Jaylen Brown earlier in July, bolstering a roster that already featured All-NBA guard Tyrese Maxey, 2023 MVP Joel Embiid and All-Rookie first team honoree V.J. Edgecombe.

The 41-year-old James averaged 25.9 points, 7.9 assists, 7.7 rebounds and 1.2 steals since joining the Lakers as a free agent in 2018.

James, who'll turn 42 in December, averaged 20.9 points, 7.2 assists, 6.1 rebounds and 1.2 steals during an unprecedented 23rd NBA season that featured twists and turns he hadn't dealt with before: missing the first 14 games because of sciatica and being a third option after Luka Doncic and Austin Reaves during the Lakers' best stretch of the season.

And when Doncic and Reaves were sidelined to end the regular season and at the start of the playoffs, James stepped back into being the No. 1 option and led the Lakers to a six-game, first-round playoff series victory over the Rockets.

James had a Hall-of-Fame worthy run with the Lakers: eight-time All-Star, seven-time All-NBA honoree, NBA champion and NBA Finals MVP in 2020 and NBA Cup champion in 2023.

He also surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's all-time regular season scoring record (38,387) on Feb. 7, 2023, now sitting at 43,440 regular-season points scored.

James ended his second tenure with the Cavaliers and signed a four-year, $154 million deal with the Lakers during the 2018 offseason.

The first season didn't go as hoped, with James suffering a groin injury on Dec. 25, 2018 that sidelined him for 17 straight games, marking the first major injury of his career, with the Lakers missing the 2018-19 postseason.

After an offseason retooling, which included trading for star big man Anthony Davis and replacing head coach Luke Walton with Frank Vogel, James and the Lakers bounced back in 2019-20, winning the 2020 NBA title.

The relationship between James and the Lakers has had its rifts throughout the decade. But at each pivotal turn, the two sides came back to each other.

Not this time.

The Lakers wanted to bring James back, but it wasn't their No. 1 priority as they looked to build the ideal roster around Doncic, who supplanted James as the face of the franchise after he was traded to Los Angeles in February 2025.

The Lakers made several moves in free agency after James shared he wouldn't return to the Lakers: Reaves (four years, $180 million), Walker Kessler (four years, $130 million), Quentin Grimes (four years, $60 million), Sandro Mamukelashvili (four years, $52 million), Collin Sexton (two years, $19 million), Kevon Looney (one year, $3.9 million) and Ziaire Williams (one year, $2.8 million).

And James, after helping restore the Lakers to relevancy, will end his career elsewhere.

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More LeBron coverage / Page 36-37, 29

BROTHERLY LOVE: LeBron James surprised the NBA on Friday by choosing the 76ers in his "last decision," joining Joel Embiid and Tyrese Maxey in hopes of winning a sixth championship at 42 before calling it a legendary career. Getty Images (2); Alex Mitchell

76ers just one of many in stacked Eastern Conf.

IT HAS yet to be reported if the first puffs of white smoke came from the top of the William Penn Building, or from the front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, or from the chimney at Pat's King of Steaks, but what we know for sure are these three things:

1. LeBron James is now a Philadelphia 76er.
2. The Sixers are now one of the more intriguing on-paper teams in years.
3. The Knicks remain a (slight) favorite to defend their title in the East, according to most of the major gambling houses.

No. 1 feels like a surprise. It felt like the heartstrings might pull James home to Cleveland, or that his sense of history might lure him back to Miami to team up with Giannis Antetokounmpo, and to make peace with Pat Riley in order to give Old Man Riles (to say nothing of Old Man LeBron) one more hurrah.

It also felt like a partnership with Stephon Curry out in San Francisco might make for an intriguing episode of Season 2 of "The Last Dance."

Instead, there is Philadelphia, which will be entering Year 13 of The Process, where the whole idea of Tanking for Titles began and flourished into a booming source of comedy every year a season has ended short of the conference finals for the Sixers. Which means each of those years.

Philly is excited. Philly ought to be excited. There were already a number of AI-aided team photos littering social media within an hour of James' announcement Friday, and in a vacuum you have to say it's an impressive array of talent in the projected starting lineup:

Joel Embiid.
Tyrese Maxey.
V.J. Edgecombe.
Jaylen Brown.

And now James, who will play his 24th NBA season in Philadelphia, which has been title-free since 1983 and hasn't reached a conference final since the 2001 team lost to the Lakers of Kobe and Shaq in the NBA Finals.

In a vacuum, that's a hell of a team. Of course, in a vacuum Embiid won't miss the 50-60 games he's almost certain to miss next year for some or another physical ailment. In a vacuum Brown — who grew to like his status as The Man in Boston last year — won't be bothered that on this team he's suddenly the fourth — and, on some nights, fifth — option.

In a vacuum Maxey will take his next step, which means first-team All-NBA, and in a vacuum so will Edgecombe, which means flirting with the All-Star Game. And in a vacuum LeBron James spends another year defying his birth certificate, which insists that he will turn 42 two days before the New Year.

And hey, sometimes these things work out.

We learned that with the Knicks just a few months ago. All season long, those who kept believing in the Knicks kept saying the same things: IF the team commits more to defense, and IF Mike Brown's message gets across, and IF Karl-Anthony Towns embraces the role Brown envisioned for him, and IF Jalen Brunson could stay healthy, and IF the bench blossomed, and ...

There are at least a half-dozen more IFs in there. But you get the point. And you saw the result: A lot of those IFs actually became facts. The Knicks are the champions. And now they have a good idea who the consensus No. 1 contender for their crown is (in addition to the team that will almost surely be waiting for them on Opening Night, or on Christmas Day).

Are the Sixers really the biggest threat to the Knicks in what's going to be a much-improved East? Well, no less an authority than Jay Wright, Sixers fan, thinks so, posting an old video on X about the '77 Sixers and adding: "Reminds me of when Dr. J. joined @sixers!! 1 2 3 4 5 SIXERS!" Philadelphia 76ers old-school anthem."

(It's helpful to remember the Sixers didn't actually win it all until Doc's seventh *year in Philly. That would make LeBron 49 on that timetable).*

I still put the Knicks at No. 1, like the gambling sites do. These are my top-five threats:

1. Indiana — yes, I believe Tyrese Haliburton's return will make that much of a difference.
2. Boston — Jayson Tatum and crew will win a lot of regular-season games, and have a lot to prove.
3. Philly — if they can prioritize what the Knicks did last year, being healthy and whole by Day 1 of the playoffs — this might actually work.
4. Detroit — won't be a regular-season powerhouse like last year, and maybe that's not a bad thing.
5. Miami — if not, then Cleveland — which, theoretically, may have already won it.

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All-time great hoping sacrifice pays off

By KHOBI PRICE

When LeBron James made the decision to leave the Lakers, immediate questions started to swirl about what he'd prioritize in his unprecedented 24th NBA season.

Money? Proximity to family? Organizational familiarity?

By joining the 76ers, James made it clear that his choice came down to winning.

The money? James will sign a two-year, $8 million contract for the veteran's minimum — quite literally the least expensive two-year deal he's capable of signing. And a lot less than what the Lakers could've offered, or even the Warriors and Heat.

The proximity to family? Philadelphia, along with Miami, was the potential destination furthest away from L.A., where he's raised his family over the last eight years. He plans on leaving his wife, daughter and two sons behind to head east.

The organizational familiarity? Unlike the Heat and Cavaliers, James hasn't played for the 76ers before.

But winning? James will have as good of an opportunity to compete for another NBA title on a championship-caliber team with the 76ers as any of his options.

He said as much on social media.

"I'm not going for money," James posted on X. "I'm not going for family. What am I really playing for at this point? I still want to sacrifice. I still want to work. I still want to grind. I still want to compete, to win and to have a chance at the feeling of winning another championship. I believe I can help make the Philadelphia 76ers a championship team and I am so excited to energize a new fanbase and start this incredible journey one last time."

Those options also included the Lakers — a door James slammed shut 3 ½ weeks ago.

James sacrificed for the Lakers before. Especially when he moved into a third-option role for most of this past March.

James will have to sacrifice similarly — if not more — for the 76ers than he would've if he returned to the Lakers.

The 76ers have a lot of mouths to feed offensively: 2024 NBA Finals MVP Jaylen Brown, All-NBA guard Tyrese Maxey, 2023 NBA MVP Joel Embiid and All-Rookie first team honoree V.J. Edgecombe.

There will be times when James is not just the third scoring option offensively, but sometimes even the fourth or fifth.

The difference?

The 76ers, despite their potential volatility, had a better chance of competing for a championship with James compared to the Lakers.

Through James' eyes, the sacrifice for the 76ers appears to be more fruitful than it would've been for the Lakers.

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Amazon MGM Studios

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

"Masters of the Universe" (Prime Video) is a classic case of a very busy movie that feels like nothing of interest happens. Is this slab of IP how we want to be entertained in 2026? **OUR CALL: SKIP IT**

WHAT TO WATCH

We have no idea how broader audiences discovered **"Wardriver"** (Paramount+), but they're right to keep watching it. It's a rock-solid thriller, with charismatic and believable performances from **Dane DeHaan** (left), Sasha Calle, and Mamoudou Athie.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

COURTSIDE COMEDY

Mary Steenburgen loved playing pickleball before starring in 'The Dink'

Mary Steenburgen (left) stars in "The Dink" with Jake Johnson (below left).

Apple TV

By ANNA MENTA

Oscar-winner Mary Steenburgen knew pickleball was her sport as soon as she realized how much she laughed on the court.

"If I'm going to play a sport, it's going to have to involve laughter," Steenburgen told DECIDER in a recent interview for her new sports comedy movie, **"The Dink,"** now streaming on Apple TV.

Steenburgen's passion for pickleball is on full display in "The Dink," directed by Josh Greenbaum, who brings the same quick, absurd humor he brought to **"Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar."** Steenburgen is no stranger to getting silly—she won the Oscar for the 1980 comedy **"Melvin and Howard,"** and is known by millennials for her iconic roles in **"Elf," "Step Brothers," "The Proposal,"** and more.

"The Dink" stars Jake Johnson (who also produced the film) as Dusty, a washed-up former tennis pro who, like most tennis players, looks down on pickleball as an easy sport for old people. But when Dusty winds up playing doubles with Steenburgen's character, Candace, he comes to love that plastic, pickle-green ball as much as the real Steenburgen does.

"It's something that is for all ages. It's something that, at my age, I can actually get better at, and grow in," Steenburgen told DECIDER.

DECIDER: I read that you got really into pickleball before this movie even came to you. Tell me about how that happened, and what this sport means to you.

MARY STEENBURGEN: My son, Charlie McDowell, gave me my first paddle and told me he thought I was going to love this sport. And he was right. He prides himself on always being right. But he was right. I do love it. I think it's really fun. It's something that is for all ages. It's something that, at my age, I can actually get better at, and grow in. I love it because we play with a lot of heart, but we also just laugh the whole time we're out there. That's for me. If I'm going to play a sport, it's going to have to involve laughter.

I heard from Jake [Johnson] that there was an alternate ending where Candace and Dusty try to actually make their romance work.

Really? He knows more about that than me, because he's a producer on the movie. The script that we did, that's the one I saw, so I didn't see the previous script.

I felt like the chemistry between you guys was real, so I admit I was rooting for a real romance. How would you have felt about that, if that ending had happened?

I mean, I get that, but it also brings with it all this baggage about what will happen. When will that age difference make a horrible difference? All that chatter starts going. I feel like the ending we found is what they did actually both need from each other, more than even romance. I think they both needed a partner and best friend.

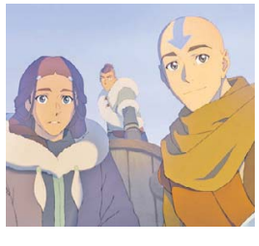
There's a funny scene where you slap Jake's character, Dusty, for saying country music sucks. Tell me about filming that. Did you go a little harder on any of the takes?

I went really wimpy on take one. [Director] Josh Greenbaum said, "You hate hitting him, right?" And I said, "Look, I just am not used to hitting people." He goes, "Well, I won't make you do it again if you wallop him on take two." So take two is the one that really hit him. [Jake Johnson] was like, "Okay, that stung. I'm done."

Getty Images

TRENDING NOW

FOX's **"Family Guy"** spinoff **"Stewie,"** centered around the character voiced by Seth MacFarlane, has added **Kenan Thompson** (left), Mike Henry, Vanessa Bayer, Melissa O'Neil, Aaron Lee, and Jessica Lowe to its star-studded voice cast.



WHAT'S NEW

ON HALLMARK CHANNEL
"Under the Mistletoe," closing out the network's "Christmas in July" event.

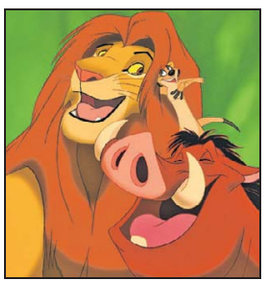
ON PARAMOUNT+
"Avatar Aang: The Last Airbender," a new movie based on the hit animated series (left).

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

DRAMA

The Godfather: 7:35 p.m. on PARMT. Marlon Brando, Al Pacino. The aging patriarch of an organized crime dynasty transfers control of his clandestine empire.



ADVENTURE

The Lion King: 7:50 p.m. on FREFRM. James Earl Jones, Jonathan Taylor Thomas. Prince Simba and his father are targeted by his bitter uncle, who wants to be king.

BIOGRAPHY

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom: 9 p.m. on WNET 13. Idris Elba, Naomie Harris. A chronicle of Nelson Mandela's life journey.

Saturday July 25, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies Sports New

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Weekend News	Entertainment Tonight		Harlan Coben's Final Twist: Who Killed Joy? (R)		48 Hours: Justine's Voice (R)		48 Hours: The Boy Across the Street (R)		CBS News 11pm	1JD Films Presents
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Paid Program	Open House	American Ninja Warrior: Central Regional Qualifying 1 (R)				Dateline NBC		News 4 New York at 11	Saturday Night Live
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	MLB Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Mets from Citi Field. Live.						The 10 O'Clock News		Fear Factor: House of Fear: 48 Hours of (R)	
7 WABC	7	7	7	(6:00) News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	WNBA Countdown	2026 WNBA All-Star Game Live.				WNBA Post game Live.	Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) TMZ	Extra		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Finally Caught: Samuels (R)		In Depth	Wonderama
11 WPIX	11	11	11	NASCAR O'Reill Live.	The Big Bang Theory	Paid Program	I Am Chris Farley (2015, Documentary) Christina Applegate. NR				PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		Seinfeld: The Subway	Seinfeld
13 WNET	13	13	13	GZero World	Ireland in Music	Inspector George Gently: Gently in the Cathedral			Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (2013, Drama): A portrait of the South African President who became a revolutionary. Idris Elba. ★★★					Four Weddings
21 WLIW	21	21	21	Compass	Drive By	Firing (R)	Midsomer	(8:47) Midsomer Murders		(9:35) Velvet: White Christmas (R)			Ireland	Papa Ray's
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Walkin NYC	Hospitality and Politics		92Y on NYCLife		Letter of Introduction (1938) NR ★★			Mack	Profiles	GZero
31 WPXN	31	3	531	NWSL Live.	NWSL On	(7:45) NWSL Soccer Live.				NWSL Live.	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisio	Liga MX Balon de Oro		Fútbol	Fútbol Liga MX: Cruz Azul vs Toluca.					Fam. de 10	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Fútbol Liga MX: Juárez vs Guadalajara. Directo.				Dateline: Secuestrada		Fútbol Estelar Directo.		Fútbol Liga MX Directo.	
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Pawn Stars	World Solitaire		Fire Country		Last Man	Last Man	Judge Judy	Paid	Women Wrestling	
A&E	46	46	181	Storage (R)	Storage Wars (R)		Storage Wars: Back		Storage Wars		(10:01) Storage Wars (R)		(11:04) Storage Wars (R)	
AMC	54	43	231	The Shawshank Redemption (1994) R			The Beekeeper (2024, Action) Jason Statham. R					Wrath of Man (2021) Jason Statham. R		
BBCAM	71	101	189	Fury (2014)	Troy (2004, Action) Brad Pitt. R ★★★							Fury (2014, Action) Brad Pitt. R ★★★½		
BET	37	54	270	(4:00) Right	Diarra From Detroit		Diarra From Detroit		Diarra From Detroit		Boomerang (1992, Comedy) Eddie Murphy. R ★★			
BRAVO	18	44	185	Catch Me If You Can		Catch Me If You Can (2002, Comedy) Leonardo DiCaprio. PG-13 ★★★½							Elf (2003) Will Ferrell. ★★★	
CNBC	15	24	102	Fugitives	American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		Live Aid: When Rock		Live Aid: When Rock		Live Aid: When Rock		Live Aid: When Rock	
COMEDY	45	50	190	(6:00) Ricky Stanicky (2024, Comedy) Zac Efron.			Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (2004) PG-13 ★★★					We're the Millers (2013) R ★★★		
DISC	66	27	120	Exp Unknwn	Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	Big Hero 6 (2014, Action) Ryan Potter.			Dragon	Dragon	(9:35) Kiff	Phineas	Phineas	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Jumanji: Jungle (2017)		Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (2017, Action) Dwayne Johnson.					Jumanji (1995, Fantasy) Robin Williams. PG ★★★			
ESPN	28	36	70	BananaBall	X Games New Orleans 2026: from Caesars Superdome in New Orleans. Live.						Fighters League: PFL D.C. (Main Card) Live.			
ESPN2	29	35	74	Life In Th	USL Soccer: Detroit City FC at Las Vegas Lights FC.				Premier Lacrosse League Live.				SportsCenter	
FBN	43	106	117	Dream Car	My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car	
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		My View with Lara Trump		Fox News Saturday Night		Gutfeld! (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Pitmasters: Trifecta of Live Fire			Diners	Diners	Diners
FREE	38	49	199	(5:50) Lilo & Stitch (2002)		(7:50) The Lion King (1994, Family) James Earl Jones. G ★★★½					(9:55) Aladdin (1992, Fantasy) Nicky Stoter. NR			
FS1	400	99	83	MLB Game	MLS Soccer: Columbus Crew vs FC Cincinnati. Live.					MLS Soccer: San Diego FC vs FC Dallas. Live.				MLB Game
FX	10	40	53	Spider-Man: Far From Home (2019) ★★★			Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021, Action) Tom Holland. PG-13 ★★★½						Captain America (2016)	
HALL		191	240	(6:00) Christmas Secret (2014, Holiday)			Love Under the Mistletoe (2026, Romance) Jen Lilley.				O Little Christmas Market (2026) Katherine Barrell.			
HGTV	64	98	165	House	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Extreme Buyers Club	
HIST	40	47	128	World War	World War II w. (R)		World War II w. (R)		(9:02) World War II w. (R)		(10:05) World War II w. (R)		(11:05) World War II w. (R)	
ID	23	171	123	Destinat.	Fatal Destination		(Bleep) Did I Marry?		(Bleep) Did I Marry?		The Killer Witness		(Bleep) Did I Marry?	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) The Girl in the Garage (2025) NR			Girl in the Coffin (2026)				Girl in the Basement (2021, Drama) Joely Fisher.			
MeTV	33	33	3	Stooges	Stooges	Stooges	The Night Stalker (1972, Horror) Darren McGavin. NR ★★★					Batman	Star Trek	
MSG	27	87	78	INTENNSE	INTENNSE Tennis: Rips vs Inferno Live.				The Wager	The Wager	Walking Dead: Dead City		USL Soccer Live.	
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(4:00) FanDuel Racing							Fairways of Life		Team Boxing Replay.	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Weekend	The Weekend		The Weekend		Crooked on MS NOW		Rachel Maddow		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	Friday (1995, Comedy) Ice Cube. R ★★★				Next Friday (2000, Comedy) Ice Cube. R ★★½				Friday After Next (2002) R	
NATGEO	65	162	121	Smuggler	To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	The Boss Baby: Family Business (2021) PG ★★½				Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) Heart	Heart & Hustle: Houston		Heart & Hustle: Houston		Belle Collective		Belle Collective		Heart & Hustle: Houston	
PARMT	36	56	54	(4:15) GoodFellas (1990)		(7:35) The Godfather (1972, Crime) Marlon Brando, Al Pacino. R ★★★★								Godfather
SNY	26	60	77	(6:00) Minor League Baseball Live.					Yeah ...	Oh Yeah ...: 1990		Sports	Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	(5:30) Stealth (2005, Action) Josh Lucas.			Jonah Hex (2010, Western) Josh Brolin. PG-13 ★★				Se7en (1995, Thriller) Brad Pitt. R ★★★★			
TBS	8	39	52	(5:55) Deep Blue Sea (1999, Thriller) R			Meg 2: The Trench (2023, Action) Jason Statham. PG-13					(10:21) Godzilla vs. Kong (2021, Action)		
TCM	82	41	230	(5:45) The Night of the Iguana (1964)			The Rose Tattoo (1955, Romance) Burt Lancaster. NR				La Vie En Rose (2007, Drama) Marion Cotillard. ★★★½			
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day Diaries (R)		90 Day Diaries (R)		90 Day Diaries (R)		Little Singles (R)		Little Singles (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	(3:30) The Lord of the Rings (2003) ★★★★			All Elite Wrestling: Collision: Collision 7/25/2026 Live.				Collision	The Lord of the Rings (2003) ★★★★		
TVLAND	85	34	241	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) 9-1-1	9-1-1: Parenthood		9-1-1: First Responders		9-1-1: Treasure Hunt		9-1-1: Suspicion		9-1-1: Survivors	
VH1	19	52	217	(6:00) Daddy Day Camp (2007) PG ★			Like Mike (2002, Comedy) Bow Wow. PG ★★					Mad Money (2008) Diane Keaton. ★★½		
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Eye Spy		NCIS: My Other Left Foot		NCIS: One Shot, One Kill		NCIS: Good Samaritan		NCIS: Enigma	
YES	53	89	76	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at Philadelphia Phillies. Live.					Postgame	YanksExtra	Home Plate	Talkin'	BK Show	MLB Game
HBO	511	301	400	(6:10) Mortal Kombat (2021, Action) ★★½			Mortal Kombat II (2026, Action) Karl Urban. R				House of the Dragon (R)		Life Larry	Equalizer R
MAX	531	371	420	I Love You Forever (2025)		(7:32) Pirate Radio (2009, Comedy) R ★★★				(9:29) Just Friends (2005, Comedy) ★★½			Miss You Already (2015)	
MGM Plus	595		395	Westies	(7:10) The Westies		Shutter Island (2010, Thriller) Leonardo DiCaprio. R				(10:20) Protector (2026, Action) Milla Jovovich. R			
PARSHO	551	321	365	(5:45) Top Gun: Maverick (2022, Action)			Gladiator (2000, Drama) Russell Crowe. R ★★★★					(10:35) No Country for Old Men (2007) R		

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YANKEES SQUEAK OUT WIN ON GOLDSCHMIDT'S HR AS SCHLITTLER OUTDUELS LUZARDO / P. 46-47

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

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MIKE VACCARO:

Even with King's shock signing, Sixers still just *third*-best challenger in East to Knicks' throne

BRON'S MEDAL

It's championship or bust for LeBron James, who reportedly signed a two-year, $8 million deal with the 76ers that also features a player option. But Mike Vaccaro says the Knicks are still the team to beat in the Eastern Conference. **COMPLETE COVERAGE / PAGES 48-49, 36-37, 29**

METS FALL TO L.A.; SOTO HURT

STAR EXITS WITH LEFT CALF ISSUE IN LOSS / PAGES 44-45

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